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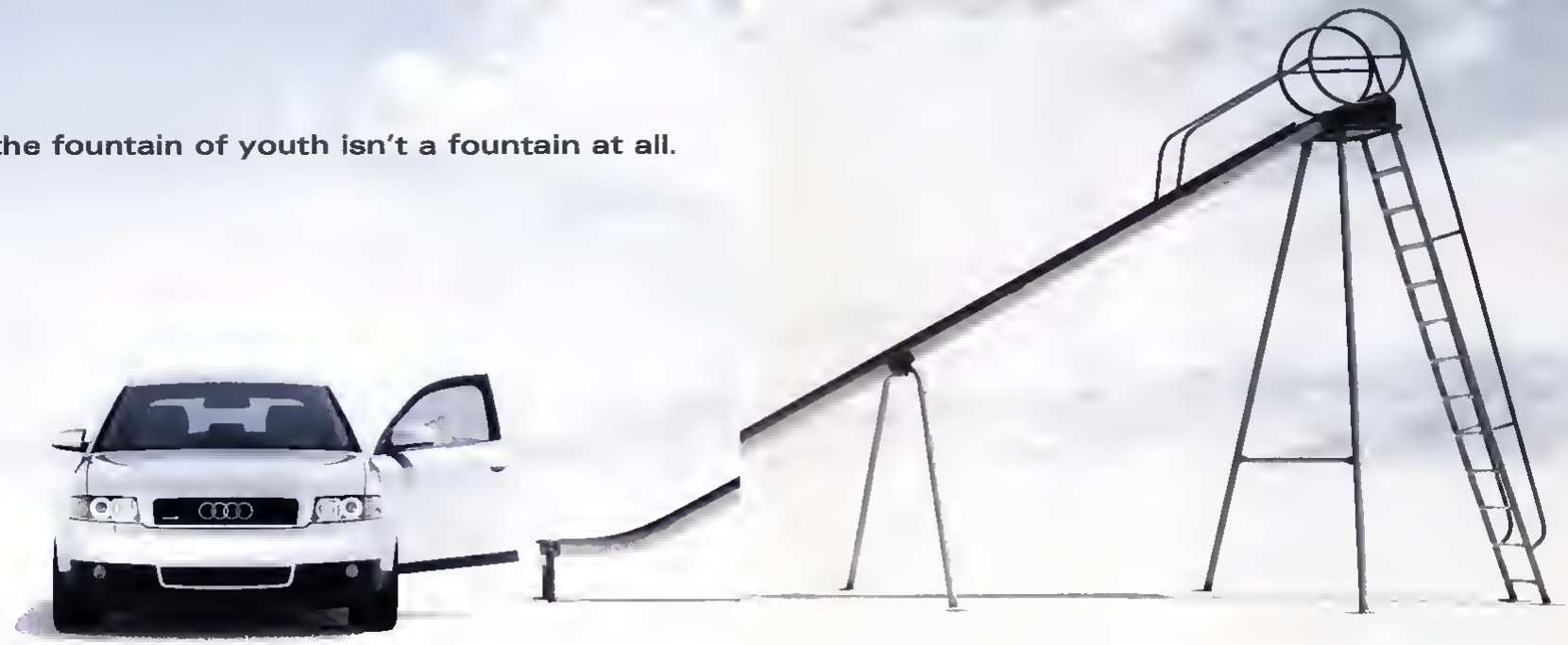
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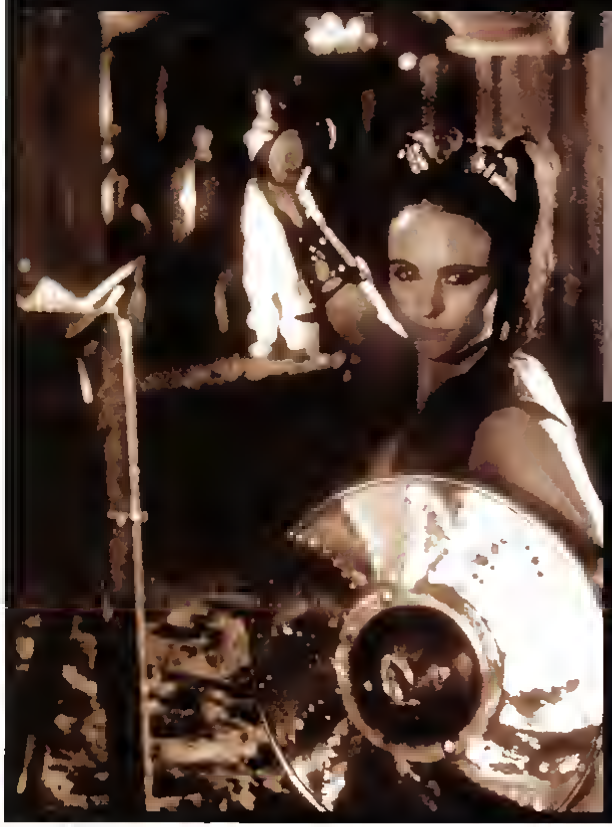
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From the
Editor

Truth and consequences at war

I've never liked that old saw to the effect that the first casualty of war is truth: there's something too glib and patently offensive about ranking semantics ahead of lives lost. But even if you put that concern aside, one lesson in the wake of Sept. 11 is that what's lost isn't so often truth as it is *access* to information: who controls it, and how much of what's happening is appropriate and necessary for people to know in times of crisis.

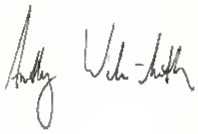
Amid the horror after the terrorist attacks, one issue confronting journalists was how to decide the line between valid reportage and voyeurism. How closely do you focus on scenes of devastation when people are literally dying in front of television cameras? Here at *Maclean's*, we had intense debate over whether to run pictures of people falling from the towers of the World Trade Center. Those pictures conveyed the full sense of tragedy—but, arguably, were too intimate in portraying the last seconds of people's lives.

In the end, we ran an image that showed dozens of people clinging to windowsills of one tower shortly before its collapse. The photo was less graphic but equally evocative, given that most of those pictured certainly died minutes later. Some readers considered that photo to also be inappropriate—but we thought that showing only devastated buildings without pictures of real people would improperly minimize the scale of the catastrophe.

That's one dilemma. Another is how to report on a story of worldwide importance in a way that keeps people informed without endangering lives. Last week, the White House asked senior television executives to exercise discretion in using pre-recorded tapes from Osama bin Laden—such as the one that showed up on international airwaves minutes after the bombing started in Afghanistan. Such tapes, said a White House official, are murderous propaganda at best—and at worse, might contain coded instructions to terrorists. The request was made only to American broadcasters—but among others, the CBC has told senior editors not to carry unedited video statements from Al-Qaeda, and not to carry the original Arabic audio at all.

It's tempting here to cite the public's right to know—along with the fact that governments habitually use virtually any crisis as an excuse to avoid offering information and explanations for their actions. The Canadian government, no matter who's in power, routinely does so, during the Gulf War, the restrictions on journalists covering the Canadian military were far more rigorous than those imposed by the Pentagon—even though our role was far less important than that of the Americans. As for the Pentagon, among other sins, it lied to Americans about supposed gains during the Vietnam War—which had the effect of prolonging the conflict.

But those complaints aside, the right to information is relative, just like other forms of social interaction. Most people, for example, wouldn't laugh at a funeral, or say uncomplimentary things about the deceased that they might have said when that person was alive. Similarly, the parameters of everyday life have changed since Sept. 11. Inevitably, governments make mistakes, as do journalists in our coverage. In confusing times, the way we define things like truth, balance and ethics will never please everyone, and always cause intense debate. In the end, that's unavoidable—and probably a good thing.



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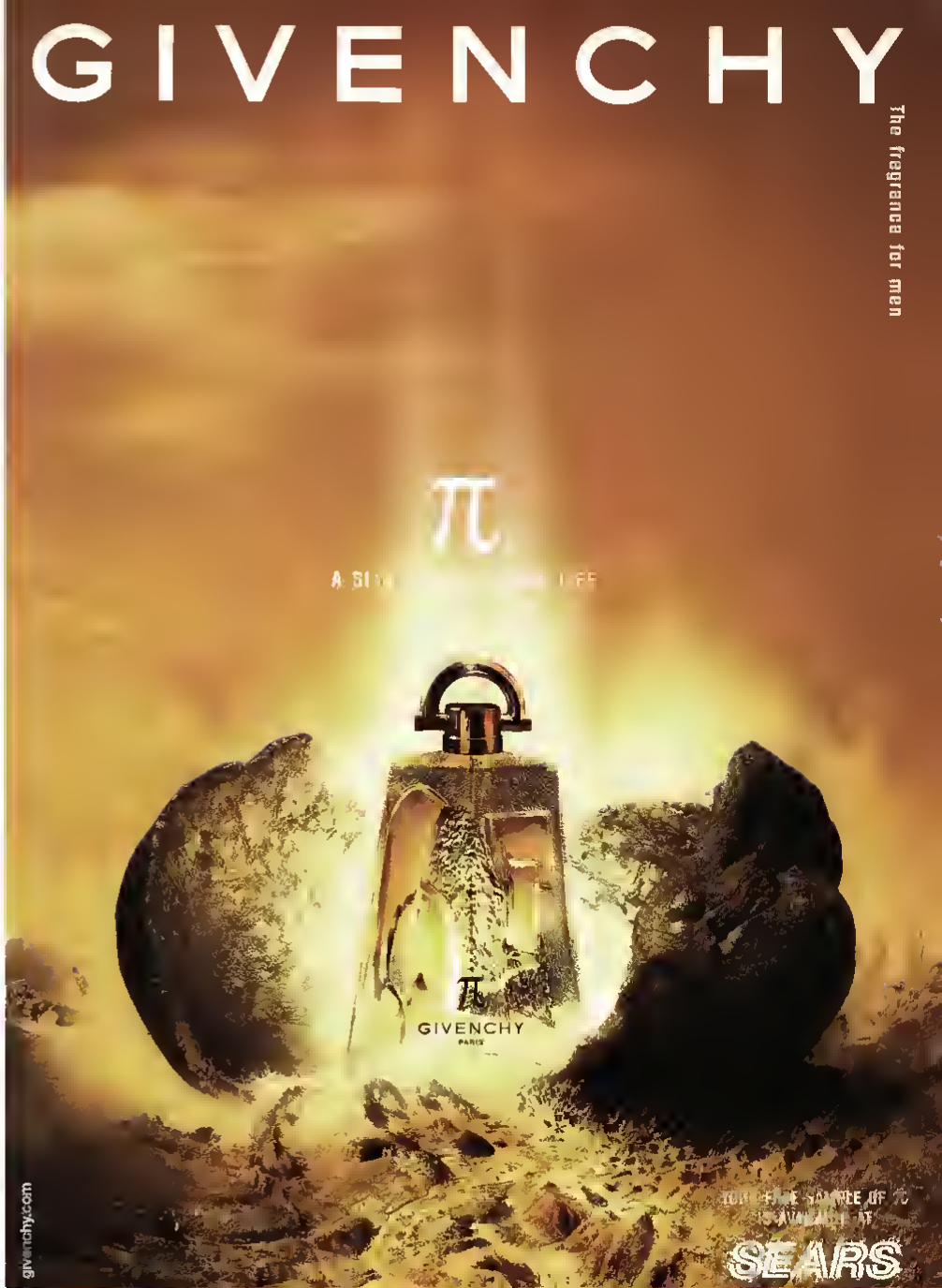
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The Mail



Pte. Brian Tibbs Army/AP

A struggle of the modern world versus the medieval

Looking for reasons

Many voices in the world blame America, or a general process of Western economic policy in a sweeping and non-specific way, for the destruction of the World Trade Center, but this is dangerously confusing the issue. We need to look at specific motivations at specific levels. At the top, it could be said that this was, for Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants, all about power: political (to have followers), or economic (bin Laden's possible stock market speculations prior to the attack and his organization's ongoing drug and money-laundering operations). He is not the first ruthless man to wish to be a king. For the radical clerics of the Taliban, however, there is something personally dangerous about globalization. these clerics sense that their medievalism cannot long survive the onslaught of globalization, just as the grim Puritan clerics of the Salem witch trials in 17th-century America feared change. Make no mistake, there is a clash of cultures here, but it is not Christians against Muslims, it is the modern versus the medieval.

Christopher T Cairney, Istanbul

Insisting on a connection between terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism conveniently clouds deeper issues, leaving globalization an innocent bystander. A religious approach simply feeds a Western desire to envision the East as exotic and primitive, justifying our dominance. The real issue is differential access to wealth and power. From Belfast to Beirut, we are witnessing class conflict couched in terms of ethnicity.

Chris Mexham, Grand Bend, Ont.

Muslim leaders here in Canada have complained of ostracism towards Muslim minorities. It is the same ostracism religious minorities (Christian or others) are victims of in Muslim countries. I know of a Salvation Army pastor having to flee a Muslim country, his life having been threatened. This is where our Western diplomacy fails.

Michel Gaudette, Trois Rivières, Que.

When people use this terrorist attack as a pretext to blame all the world's problems on religion, they denigrate Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. They overlook the genocidal acts perpetrated by atheistic communists that have impoverished, enslaved and slaughtered tens of millions, they ignore daily acts of theft, violence, rape and murder that have nothing to do with God or religion but everything to do with human selfishness. And they fail to acknowledge the amazing contributions others have made because of their faith in God, such as ending slavery and establishing schools and hospitals.

Joe Prochazka, Oshawa, Ont.

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Is the cause good?

Alliances can appear misplaced from a future vantage point, as indicated by Barbara Amiel ("Terrorism's real 'root cause,' " Oct. 8). But I take exception to the view that a cause should lose support because terrorism was used in its defence. If a terrorist act is committed in the name of democracy, does that mean democracy should not be supported? Motivation to commit a terrorist act must be targeted. If we subdue the extremist's motivation to act, then we disarm the weapon at its real root.

Jack Kerkhof, Calgary

Military support

For eight years, Scott Taylor, editor of *Esprit de Corps*, has doggedly clung to the same message about corruption, neglect and rustout in the Canadian Forces. If Taylor is as concerned about budgetary and recruiting shortfalls as he suggests in his article (" 'Threadbare and patched,' " Special Report, Oct. 8), perhaps he should take a look at his own role in shaping Canadian defence matters in the past decade. Taylor's constant media barrage has done much to destroy any political will that may have existed to significantly increase the size and power of the Canadian Forces. His message has no doubt discouraged some young Canadians from entering into military service. If the Forces were in the kind of shape that Taylor suggests, they would not have been able to successfully accomplish the difficult and complex missions this nation has asked them to perform in the past 10 years. Perhaps if Taylor and the rest of the defence community spent more time celebrating those achievements, recruits and government spending would be more forthcoming.

Lee Windsor, Fredericton

The military personnel I have known are all professionals and proud of what they do. How disgraceful that they are representing our country on the world stage with equipment that is so decrepit that it is often more of a threat to the operators than to any potential enemy. I would like to see a box at the bottom of our tax returns that allows us to contribute all or part of our refunds to the armed forces. How ridiculous that we can receive tax



credits for donating to a political party and not for a national institution that is in serious need of our help
Gord Anderson, Waterdown, Ont.

Pacifism's dangers

Were no history lessons learned from the horrific events of the past century? "Pacifism and dialogue," as proclaimed by contributor Ali Hossaini ("At war with oneself," Over to You, Oct. 1), was epitomized by Britain's prime minister Neville Chamberlain in that now-infamous statement "peace for our time." Millions of people were killed in the years prior to and during the Second World War. Among others, at least 12 million Jewish and non-Jewish innocents were murdered by the Nazis before Europe's war ended. And approximately eight million civilian Chinese were killed, often brutally tortured beforehand, by Imperial Japanese soldiers in the late 1930s, while the world stood by. Pacifism, along with ignorance and denial, allowed Stalin to starve to death a similar number of Ukrainians in the early to mid-1930s. Did all those Canadian soldiers who were killed in the Second World War die in vain? No, they died so that Canadian pacifists could organize rallies extolling the virtues of pacifism and dialogue.
M. J. Drozd, Edmonton

Ready for what?

The cover of your Oct. 1 issue proclaims loudly "America's ready. Are the rest of us?" Without trying to belittle the tragedy in New York City and Washington, I would ask exactly what is America ready for? Was America prepared on Sept. 11 when it allowed 19 terrorists to board U.S. flights within the space of a few minutes? Was America prepared over the previous several months when these terrorists routinely travelled in and out of the United States, attended flight schools and participated in other activities preparing themselves for their mission? America had let its guard down. The terrorists didn't slip through the Canadian immigration system, which is so often likened to a sieve by some American politicians and others. They went straight through the American sieve. America may find that the only way to combat this menace effectively will be to eliminate the root cause, which to many in the underdeveloped world is American foreign policy. I don't see a lot of indication that America is even beginning to recognize that fact.
Stan Shepherd, North Vancouver


Curtis Hughes

It's all about power

Here in our area of Saskatchewan, we regularly have hunters from the United States at this time of the year. Those with whom we have spoken have, in explanation of the massive deployment of regular troops against a country still in the Stone Age, responded with, "Well, we have to do something, we can't just sit there and take it." We should not be locked into accepting the response of a country that can't take the time to strategize a reasoned and thoughtful approach before launching into war. How does a bully come to terms with himself? How can the world "bell the cat"?
Dale Dewar, Wynyard, Sask.

Although he was a Liberal, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau knew how to deal with terrorists and cowards (or bleeding hearts). As much as some of us hated him, he had good old-fashioned guts. Our current Prime Minister, with his wimpy foreign policy, has shown us over and over that he has no guts at all.
Corey Caponero, Calgary

Terrorism and Israel

I am amazed at the ease with which Barbara Amiel managed to dismiss the role that terrorism played in the creation of the state of Israel ("Terrorism's real 'root cause,'" Oct. 8). So, the Haganah "fought the Jewish terrorists who were using violence to try and get the British out of Palestine." Interesting. Has Amiel heard of Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir? They were two successful Jewish terrorists whose activities hastened the departure of the British from Palestine. Incidentally, both later became prime ministers of Israel.
Anahid Melikian, Winnipeg

People who say the U.S. helped to create Osama bin Laden do not, as Barbara Amiel claims, think America should "shut up and reap what it sows." We do, however, think in the future the U.S. should look beyond its immediate goals when dealing with politically volatile nations like Afghanistan and Iraq. Perhaps some good can come out of this abominable tragedy if America remembers there are serious consequences to choosing sides in a foreign conflict between cultures it doesn't know or understand.
Curtis Harvie, Ottawa

A matter of perspective

Columnist Donald Coxe has been infected by George W. Bush's black-and-white rhetoric of "you are either with us, or with the terrorists" ("Scenario A, or worse," Oct. 8). He suggests that anyone who will not thank the U.S. and its allied "good guys" when they eventually claim victory must be a supporter of the terrorists. It is scary to see how the events of Sept. 11 and the ensuing media campaign have turned any criticism directed towards the U.S. into a sacrilege. In claiming "the 1990s were the longest period of good times" since the First World War, Coxe might be right from the view of most Western nations. However, if he asked Afghanistan, Rwanda or Sudan, to name only a few, he might get a different answer.
Sabine Schuerholz-Lehr, Duncan, B.C.

Measuring up to Foth

So, "the government is stupid and the public is naive," according to Allan Fotheringham ("One is a lonely number," Oct. 8). If the media would do a better job of informing the public about this stupidity instead of endeavouring to present their actions so they appear stupid, perhaps we might measure up to Fotheringham's high level of perception.
Ben Fear, Guelph, Ont.

"One is a lonely number" settles it: Fotheringham for prime minister. Or would he be allergic to loneliness?
D.T. Bath, Peterborough, Ont.

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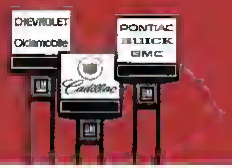
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Winners in the *Community Leadership* category support the theory that a literate community is a healthy one. These groups provide services and support to thousands of Canadians.

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"Maclean's is a long-time supporter of literacy and education initiatives in Canada," says Marketing Manager Rachael MacKenzie. "What's special about these awards is that they recognize not only individual achievement, but they pay tribute to leaders who have made significant contributions to literacy programs in their schools, businesses and communities."

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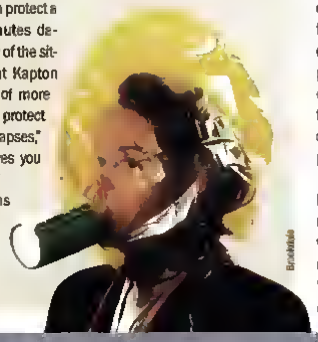
Edited by Shanda Deziel *with Amy Cameron*

Not your average gas mask

As army surplus stores struggle to keep gas masks stocked on North American shelves a Canadian company is stepping up to fill the demand. Vancouver-based Brookdale International Systems Inc. has been shipping 1,000 EVAC-U8s per day—five times its normal rate—mainly to U.S. stores and organizations. Although not a standard gas mask, the "smoke hood," designed by company CEO **John Swann**, can protect against some gases, including ammonia, sulphur dioxide, chlorine and hydrogen sulphide. Introduced in 1994 as a shield against smoke inhalation, the mask can protect a user for up to 40 minutes depending on the intensity of the situation. The translucent Kapton hood can resist heat of more than 400° C. "It can't protect you when a building collapses," says Swann, "but it gives you time to get the hell out."

The $110 device has been purchased by the U.S. state department and the New York police and fire departments. As the threat of chemical warfare increases, Swann has bumped up the production schedule of an EVAC unit with nuclear, biological and chemical capabilities. "Our staff is going flat-out to have it available in the next couple of months," says Swann, adding it will use a HEPA filter and a different grade carbon than the original. In this case, putting a bag over your head might just save your life.

John Intini



Brookdale

EVAC-U8 is more than just a smoke shield



Dana Wyse

Portrait of the subversive artist

The line between fact and fiction is decidedly blurred in the life and work of Vancouver-born multimedia artist Dana Wyse. Based in Paris since 1995, Wyse returned to her home town last month for her first Canadian exhibition. The show was called Jesus Had a Sister Productions, which is also the name Wyse uses in lieu of a signature on most of her pieces. Her work takes the form of faux consumer products, including a range of cleverly packaged pills and powders—claiming to cure everything from bad haircuts to unfaithful husbands—as well as a line of gay toys: sewing kits for boys, plastic hand grenades for girls.



Wyse (top) makes her point with fake consumer products

At her shows, the "merchandise" hangs from pegs on stainless steel racks, just like in a real store, and viewers are permitted to handle the novelties, which are in fact for sale. "People are not in the habit of going to a gallery and participating in the show," says Wyse, whose pieces also appear in the permanent collections of high-profile modern-art galleries in New York City, Los Angeles and Berlin. Now preparing for consecutive shows in France and Germany, Wyse says her pop-cultural interpretations are obliquely autobiographical. "It's a really personal work," she says, "which is often forgotten. It's my story, a record of my experiences on earth: my struggles and dreams and obsessions."

David Wright

When war coincides with peace

As the world watches war unfold in Afghanistan, the Nobel Peace Prize celebrates its 100th anniversary. Here are some of its more controversial past recipients:

In 1973, the prize was divided between the two men who negotiated the Vietnam peace accord—Le Duc Tho, a top-ranking Communist party official from North Vietnam, and Henry Kissinger, then-U.S. secretary of state. Tho declined the prize—the only time in its history that the award was refused—and Kissinger's alleged role in various world conflicts, including the bloody 1973 coup that brought Gen. Augusto Pinochet to power in Chile, has his most vociferous critics now calling for him to be tried as a war criminal.



In 1978, Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, was given the award jointly with Egypt's president, Mohammad Anwar Al-Sadat, for negotiating peace between their two countries. Four years later, Begin ordered his armies to invade Lebanon and destroy the military bases of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, sparking an international controversy.

In 1994, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, shared the award with Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, and Shimon Peres, foreign minister of Israel, for their efforts to create peace in the Middle East.

Illustration for Macleans by Nimin Pelletier





Illustration for Maclean's by Simon Pelletier

A self-proclaimed hockey savant

Ask **Liam Maguire** an obscure question about our national sport, like "Who scored the fastest hat trick in NHL history?" and he'll have your answer in a second. He'll be right, too. (**Bill Mosienko** of the Chicago Blackhawks, in 21 seconds, in 1952.) Maguire, 42, has a passion for the game that goes beyond your typical Canadian's love for hockey. "I'm a biased, pro-Canadian nationalistic hockey fan," says the Kars, Ont., native. His book, *What's the Score?*, is a fascinating collection of hockey lore, history and stats—for example, Boston Bruin **Phil Esposito** scored his 50th goal of the season on his birthday three times.

Maguire's "trivial" career started when he was 21 and working at a local arena. He was eating lunch atop a Zamboni and listening to a sports trivia show—on a whim he called in and wowed the station with his knowledge. He was asked back and listeners were invited to try and stump him. Since then, Maguire has earned his bread and butter from hockey trivia. But his talent runs much deeper. He remembers almost everything to do with facts and figures. He can recite the postal codes of every house he's ever lived in and even remembers his first girlfriend's licence plate number. Maguire is also proud to say he's never forgotten his wedding anniversary or wife's birthday. All that makes the encyclopedic hockey guru somewhat of a statistical anomaly.

Michael Snider

Exploring the realm of easy riders

It began as a way for CBC Television and Radio-Canada to work together on a project. The subject was perfect—bilingual, national, in the public consciousness—and so a miniseries was born. *The Last Chapter* is a fictional look at biker gangs in Canada and the men who run these outlaw organizations. "We wanted to show who they really are," explains producer **Claudio Luca**. "That they are not only young punks, but rich and powerful people." And should the six-hour series be a success when it airs in March, 2002, it could pave the way for more collaborations between the two broadcasters down the road. The series follows the efforts of two Canada-wide gangs who are fighting to establish a Toronto chapter. Shot in Montreal and Toronto, the story examines the various realms of biker gangs including prostitution and drugs.



Brian Thomson/*Brantford Expositor*

Finding biker extras was easy

While Luca hopes the series will be informative for Canadians, even he learned an amazing thing about his own province of Quebec—it's filled with motorcycle fanatics beyond its infamous biker gangs. Hundreds of people showed up—from serious motorcycle collectors to the doctors, lawyers and dentists who are weekend riders—to play extras in the large bike scenes. "I didn't know that people were so crazy about them," he says. "All of those baby boomers buying all of those bikes."

Amy Cameron

Over and Under Achievers

Lemons & Berrys

Andrew Spence U.S. economist with Canadian roots wins Nobel for explaining why we don't trust used-car salesmen. Now, can he show why we don't trust economists?



CP Archives

Three-down football The CFL's governors finally approve return of an Ottawa franchise for 2002 season after five-year hiatus. Russ Jackson and Tony Gabriel, start working out now!

Bring back Jackson

Research In Motion Canadian wireless technology firm, buffeted lately by tech-wary markets, poised to sell secure version of BlackBerry communication devices to U.S. army. Nice timing.

Overbites



Anthony P. Ballaine/Reuters

"I caught the ball and it was a mass of humanity or, as I call it now, a mass of inhumanity. But the bottom line is I caught Barry's ball."
—**Alex Popov** had **Barry Bonds** record 73rd home-run ball, then was mobbed and lost it. He's retained a lawyer to try to get it back.

Poor Popov

"I am just savouring the moment."
—Statement from **Patrick Hayashi**, who ended up with the ball.

"Right now I am the idiot who spent $3 million on the crown jewel of sports memorabilia. If the record falls, I'm the idiot who spent $3 million on a $5 ball."
—Canadian comic-book creator **Todd McFarlane** in 1999, after purchasing **Mark McGwire**'s 70th home-run ball.

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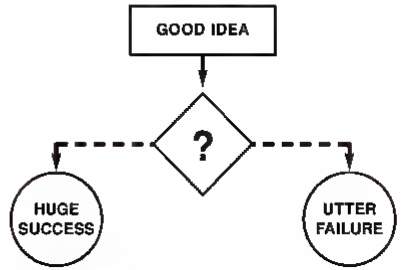


Fig 2: Good ideas need good people

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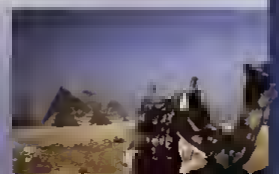
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Over to You MARK FELDMAN

A gift of new hope

September 10th began very early in the morning for me—far earlier than it would have if I had been attending my university classes in London, Ont. But I was in Toronto, about to take my father to the hospital. That was the day he was donating his left kidney to his 18-year-old daughter, Lindsay.

I came home from school last April, prepared to celebrate the end of my second year. Instead, my family gathered in the emergency unit of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, worried about why my sister's legs were cramping up, why her hands were shaking and why her skin had turned so terribly pale. X-rays revealed large cysts on both of Lindsay's kidneys, limiting their function to less than 10 per cent and preventing them from filtering out her body's toxins through normal elimination. These toxins were spreading through the rest of her body, causing her great pain. The diagnosis was polycystic kidney disease.



We were told that hemodialysis was Lindsay's required treatment. Life with kidney disease consisted of a strict diet and dialysis three days a week. At the clinic, she was hooked up to a machine, which extracted blood from a line above her collarbone, passed it through an artificial kidney, cleaned it and returned it to her body. This process would continue unless she received a transplant. For my dad, not a minute went by without wondering when his daughter would get a kidney—and although both friends and family came forward for blood matching, he thought of himself as the only logical donor. On Monday, Sept. 10, we drove in darkness to the hospital.

My father went under first as Lindsay waited patiently in her room, brave as always. Diagnosed with a global delay at birth, Lindsay has fought an uphill battle ever since. She has undergone five eye surgeries, speech and occupational therapy—always one step behind on the track field, one step behind in her math class, but her heart has spoken volumes that far exceeded her disabilities. Lindsay has a way of touching people. How does she do it? I can't possibly say. Nor can the five-year-olds who suffer from spina bifida and cerebral palsy she works with as a volunteer, or the audiences who watch her deliver monologues at her annual drama recitals. Her teachers, camp counsellors, riding instructors and, most recently, doctors, have all been at a loss for words as to what makes her so special.

So it was no surprise to us that four hours after her surgery Lindsay was laughing, doing crossword puzzles and wondering why they wouldn't let her eat. Her old man—no slouch himself, an athletic bull whose fit frame belies his 50 years—lay motionless in recovery with a morphine drip at his side. Doctors warned us that the recovery is harder on the donor. When Lindsay went down to visit him, my dad cried at the sight of his daughter, so full of life. For years, my family had attributed her low energy level and nausea to her natural delay. Who would have thought that her body was poisoned all along, beat up by kidney disease. These symptoms all but disappeared once her dialysis began. Now, with her new organ, Lindsay's blood will be filtered naturally.

Morning came, and one surreal day led into the next. Sirens screamed, not from the busy hospital we sat in, but from the television in my dad's room. The lounges filled as people fixated on the television screens. Calm chats became distressed and faces went pale. Lindsay didn't quite understand why her TV was flooded with news, and she couldn't quite understand how changed the world had become overnight.

Visitors who came in that morning were astounded to see Lindsay in such fantastic condition. The despair cast upon the world that terrible Tuesday didn't occupy the same space as Lindsay. That morning, I thought of only two things: my sister and New York. But they refused to coexist in my mind. Lindsay's innocence masked the crisis taking hold of the world. She was my dose of morphine for the horror that was carved in me that day.

That night, Lindsay learned what had happened in the world. None of us could understand what we were seeing. But as we mourn, Lindsay remains positive by nature and by her innocence. Sept. 11 will definitely stand out in her mind, but so will the day she received the gift of life from her father—the wonderful day that marked the end of dialysis and the beginning of a normal life, the day before the world changed.

Mark Feldman is in his third year at Huron College at the University of Western Ontario in London.

Illustration for Maclean's by Simon Ng/Rockfor

Overture Passages

Awarded: The United Nations and Secretary General **Kofi Annan** won the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to obtain "a more peaceful world." Annan, born in Ghana, joined the UN in 1962 and in 1997 became secretary general. Known for his efforts to combat AIDS, Annan, 63, was praised by the Norwegian Nobel committee for "bringing new life to the organization." This year's medicine prize was given to Americans **Leland Hartwell** and Britons **Tim Hunt** and **Paul Nurse** for cell development research. **Wolfgang Ketterle** of Germany and Americans **Eric Cornell** and **Carl Wieman** won the physics award for creating a new state of matter—an ultra-cold gas. Americans **George Akerlof, A. Michael Spence** and **Joseph Stiglitz** took the economics prize, while the chemistry award went to **K. Barry Sharpless** and **William Knowles** of the U.S. and Japan's **Ryoji Noyori**. British novelist **V. S. Naipaul**—born in Trinidad—won the literature award for his work over the past 44 years.



Shawn Baldw in/AP

Died: **Herbert Block**, *The Washington Post*'s Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, was best known for his depictions of **Richard Nixon**, who once admitted that the illustrator "got under my skin." Block, who used the signature Herblock, helped to define the great issues of the age—from the rise of Hitler and spread of fascism in the 1930s to the Cold War. In the 1950s, he coined the term "McCarthyism" for the smear tactics of Senator **Joseph McCarthy**. Block, 91, died in a Washington hospital, of complications from pneumonia.

Died: Fisheries biologist **William Ricker** is internationally famous in his field thanks to his 1954 invention of the Ricker Curve—the formula for measuring the maximum number of fish that can be caught without threatening future stocks. Born in Waterdown, Ont., Ricker did his early scientific work in Toronto and British Columbia. He spent 12 years teaching at the University of Indiana and then returned to Nanaimo, B.C., taking a job at the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Ricker, who taught himself Russian and wrote the *Russian-English Dictionary for Students of Fisheries and Aquatic Biology*, is also credited with bringing the Soviet and Western fishing worlds together. He died in Nanaimo at age 93.

Engaged: **Carlos the Jackal**, one of the world's most notorious terrorists, is believed to be responsible for more than 80 killings. The Venezuelan-born Carlos, 51, whose real name is **Ilich Ramirez Sanchez**, is serving a life sentence in France for a triple murder in 1975, the same year he took 70 people hostage at a Vienna OPEC meeting. His lawyer, **Isabelle Coutant-Peyre**, says she and Carlos will get married as soon as their divorces are finalized.

Awarded: Choreographer and director **Brian Macdonald**, one of the founders of the National Ballet of Canada, is the first recipient of the Walter Carsen Prize for excellence in the performing arts. Montreal-born Macdonald, 73, is recognized for his more than 50 years in the arts and has worked with ballet and opera companies around the world. He is currently director of the summer dance program at the Banff Centre for the Arts. The $50,000 annual prize is presented by the Canada Council for the Arts for the highest level of distinguished career achievement in dance, theatre or music.

Expecting: **Sarah McLachlan** is pregnant with her first child. The 33-year-old Vancouver-based pop star and her husband and drummer, **Ashwin Sood**, have been married for four years. McLachlan, whose career has been on hiatus since 1999 in order to start a family, did play at last month's MuchMusic special, Music Without Borders, for victims of the U.S. terrorist attacks.

Died: **Bongo**, the lion film star, was put to sleep after a battle with lung cancer. There is a chance Bongo impregnated **Gresil**, the female lion he spent his last two months with—tests are ongoing. Bongo, who lived at a zoo in Bowmanville, Ont., was 15 years old, double the average lifespan of a lion in the wild.

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Arafat's desperate struggle

Palestinian police killed two Arab demonstrators in the Gaza Strip in an attempt to quell growing protests against the bombing of Afghanistan. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has declared his support for the American-led attack on international terrorism, but militant Palestinians, some belonging to the terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, staged massive demonstrations that threatened to undermine his leadership. Arafat, under intense American pressure to arrest suspected terrorists in Palestinian-controlled areas, is walking a tightrope: he must distance himself from terrorism while keeping alive the Palestinian cause in the face of growing violence from Arab radicals who vow never to accept peace with Israel. "There is an internal struggle," said Azmi Bishara, an Arab member of the Israeli parliament, "over who is the law among the Palestinians."

As protests against the bombing continued, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with two senior Arafat aides in Jerusalem in an attempt to enforce the ceasefire both sides agreed to on Sept. 26. President George W. Bush has attempted to help Arafat by calling for a new round of peace negotiations and reiterating his support for a Palestinian state. But Israel's hardline Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has added to the uncertainty surrounding the Palestinian leader by refusing to restart full peace talks until all violence against Israel stops—something that is increasingly beyond Arafat's control.

Hate does not pay

Prosecutors had asked for only a two-or three-month jail term for a Moncton, N.B., youth who burned a gasoline-soaked cross on a black family's lawn in July. Instead, an angry provincial court Judge Sylvio Savoie sentenced James Hanley, 19, to four months in jail, to be followed by two years of probation, a curfew and racial sensitivity training. During his trial for wilfully promoting hatred, Hanley argued that the cross burning was just a prank that had been blown out of proportion by the media. Savoie flatly rejected the argument, saying that to a black person, burning crosses means only one thing: the hatred and violence of the Ku Klux Klan. "This crime," the judge added, "offends the very fabric of our Canadian society."

Embassy gunman

A 31-year-old man jumped over a fence surrounding the Canadian Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, held the staff hostage and threatened to kill himself unless he was granted asylum in Canada. Embassy guards negotiated with him until he surrendered. Police said the gunman was an employee of state-owned Serbian Radio-and-Television.

Kursk raised

The twisted hulk of the Kursk, the Russian submarine that sank on Aug. 12, 2000, taking its 118-man crew to the bottom of the Barents Sea, was slowly raised to the surface and hauled gingerly to dry dock in Murmansk. Throughout the salvage operation, technicians also monitored the Kursk's two 190-megawatt nuclear reactors and missile arsenal for radiation leaks, but found none. Shortly after the sinking, Norwegian divers recovered 12 bodies. They also found letters indicating that at least 23 crew members survived for several hours in compartments in the stern. Russian officials say they hope to find a further 30 to 40 bodies; remains of the others were likely vaporized by the powerful explosions that sank the sub.

Clark's day in court

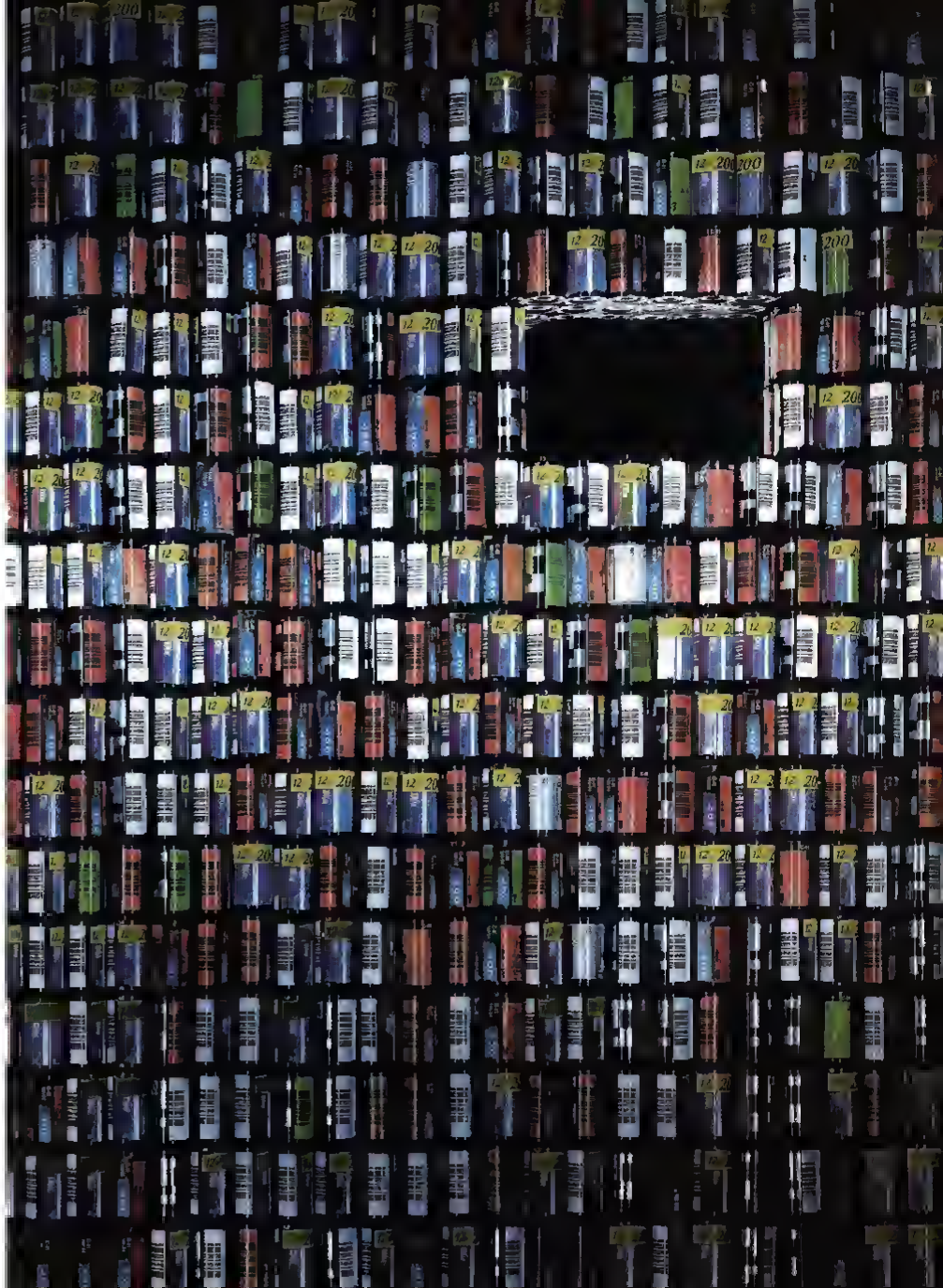
The trial of Glen Clark for breach of public trust and ac-

Throwing out an 'emotional' case

An Ontario Superior Court judge denied certification of a $2.3-billion class-action lawsuit that would have allowed First Nations people to sue a church group and the federal government. Justice Roland Haines of London, Ont., said he saw some merit in some of the individual claims filed on behalf of 800 children who attended the Mohawk Residential School in Brantford, Ont., between 1920 and 1970, and 10,000 of their relatives. The judge ruled, however, they had "failed to establish there is an identifiable class and have failed to demonstrate their claims raise common issues."

The plaintiffs—who were seeking to sue an Anglican missionary group and Canada's attorney general—alleged they were subjected to a "sustained, systematic program of physical, emotional, spiritual and cultural abuse" at the school. But Haines noted that many of the alleged common elements in the claim are "moving targets" because attitudes, education, discipline, nutrition and health standards have all changed over the years.

Many groups across Canada awaited the precedent-setting decision because it could affect similar suits filed against the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and United churches. They have been lobbying the federal government to initiate out-of court compensation for residential school students who were victims of abuse because the court proceedings are bankrupting the churches and haven't helped the former students much. A lawyer for the plaintiffs said his clients are considering an appeal.





Richard Lam/CP

Clark walking into court

cepting a benefit got under way with the former B.C. premier electing to be tried by judge alone. Clark, NDP premier from 1996 to 1999, was charged after his friend and neighbour Dimitrios Pilarinos helped build decks on Clark's Vancouver home and his cottage in Penticton, B.C. Pilarinos was later awarded approval in principle for a casino licence. Police searched Clark's house in March, 1999; he resigned over the allegations five months later

Iris on the rampage

Packing winds of 230 km/h, hurricane Iris swept across southern Belize. The storm wiped out entire villages, leaving 13,000 homeless, and destroyed banana crops, the mainstay of the country's economy. Twenty-one people died when the Wave Dancer, a U.S. boat with 28 passengers and crew aboard, was overturned while moored in a relatively protected port 130 km south of Belize City.

Bjossa makes her final curtain call

Staff at the Vancouver Aquarium cried when they learned Bjossa, the beloved killer whale, had died following a long illness. The 25-year-old orca had entertained thousands at the aquarium since her capture in 1980, but since 1997 she had been the only killer whale at the facility. To ease her loneliness, officials shipped Bjossa last April to SeaWorld in San Diego, where she died



Harley Soltes/The Santa Rosa Times

Hunter hunted

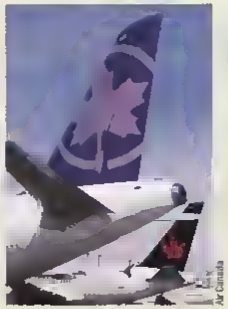
And down (south) goes another one. Natural gas producer Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. of Calgary became the latest Canadian-owned energy firm to be sold to a U.S. buyer. Chairman and founder Jim Gray, a longtime Canadian nationalist, agreed to a $3.3-billion cash offer from Houston-based Burlington Resources Inc., North America's biggest natural gas firm. The deal follows the recent acquisitions by American firms of Canadian-owned Westcoast Energy Inc., Anderson Exploration Ltd. and Gulf Canada Resources Ltd. for a total of more than $20 billion.

Troubled printer

Quebecor World Inc. said it would lay off about 2,400 of its 40,000 employees and close seven of 160 printing plants worldwide due to the U.S. economic slowdown. The company, which also issued a profit warning, has long been seen as the stable earner among properties owned by Montreal-based Quebecor Inc. The parent company has suffered from shrinking revenues at its newspaper holdings, including the tabloid Sun Media group, and took on heavy debt to buy Quebec's Groupe Vidéotron Ltée cable system.

Pink slips and jazzy purple tails

Air Canada is launching a brand-new discount carrier, with white and purple airplanes and the jazzy name of Tango—at the same time that it grapples with its unions to slash jobs. New cuts—1,280 pink slips last week on top of 12,500 layoffs announced since last December—were nullified the next day by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board. The latest round was deemed a clear contravention of one of Air Canada's collective agreements, which promised no more layoffs before 2004. The airline, which was in rough shape before Sept. 11, is now reeling from the steep drop in passenger travel since the U.S. terror attacks. President and CEO Robert Milton anticipates the carrier will lose "billions" of revenue dollars over the next 15 months. In addition to its efforts to slash labour costs, the company will shave capacity by 20 per cent in a bid to send planes down the runway with fewer empty seats. The cut-rate Tango, with prices well below Air Canada's full fares (Toronto to Vancouver on Tango: $398 return), is set to take off on Nov. 1. It will fly to Canada's major cities and, later this year, to tourist destinations in Florida. A second discount carrier, which may carry the brand name Zip, is also in the works for short hauls in Western Canada to challenge rival WestJet. That is, if it gets off the ground. Some analysts predict Air Canada could run out of cash next year



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Montcalm joins his soldiers at last

For 242 years, the gravesite of Louis-Joseph Marquis de Montcalm lay within the isolated confines of a Quebec City convent. But now, the lieutenant-general has been reunited with the man he led in the most pivotal battle in Canada's history. On Sept. 13, 1759, Montcalm was wounded in the losing struggle with the British under Gen. James Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham. He died the next day. Last week, Montcalm's casket, covered with a white-and-gold Fleur de lis, was borne on a carriage drawn by four horses through historic Old Quebec. The two-block-long procession was accompanied by a military honour guard in period uniforms and carrying regimental flags for each of the units Montcalm had commanded. The remains—described as only a skull and leg bone—were placed in a grey stone crypt in a small cemetery in the Lower Town.

The ceremony drew hundreds of dignitaries, historians and even some of Montcalm's descendants. Among them were Guy Bertrand Marquis de Montcalm and his wife, who flew from France for the occasion. "We're enchanted and proud to come and commemorate this," he said. "But what's extraordinary is that we're commemorating the memory of a loser. It was Wolfe who won. I think we should do the same for him." Wolfe, who died on the battlefield, is buried in Greenwich, England.

Montcalm, who was born in Candiac, France, in 1712, joined the army at age 9. In 1756, he was named commander of the French troops in North America, and in 1758 was appointed lieutenant-general, the second-highest rank in the French army. By then, France and Britain were embroiled in what became known as the Seven Years' War. After an initial string of losses in the New World, the tide turned for the British. A series of errors by the French enabled Wolfe to scale the banks of the St. Lawrence River and land some 4,500 British troops on the Plains of Abraham. Montcalm rushed his men into battle—and the rest, as they say, is history.



Peter C. Newman

Big Foot of CanLit

Writing, the 20th century Irish novelist J. P. Donleavy once observed, is "turning one's worst moments into money." Pierre Berton, whose 47th book, *Marching as to War*, has just been published, operates on exactly the opposite impulse. He has spent a productive lifetime turning into marketable and often magnificent prose his best thoughts and feelings about his country, his family, his friends and himself.

His writings celebrate being Canadian, warts and all, and if this latest volume is especially poignant, it's because it could hardly be more timely. He could not have known, of course, that it would be published just as we are marching off to war yet again, but Berton has a knack for giving history a contemporary sheen.

We have never, he contends, been citizens of a peaceable kingdom. More controversially, he argues that our participation in most of our past conflicts was prompted not by obligation, but because most Canadians wanted to step up to be counted. Canada went to war because the politicians followed the will of the people, not the other way round. That's still true. It's not Jean Chrétien's pathetic rhetoric that has Canadians feeling patriotic, but their instinct that terrorism is the heart of evil.

Pierre Berton's latest book establishes him as our Walt Disney, in the best sense, for popularizing our sleepy past

Berton's controversial insights make him more than simply a gifted storyteller. He brings to his writing the bias of a social democratic activist, a frequent accessory before the fact in countless worthy causes. In a country where everyone tries desperately to keep quiet, Pierre Berton has always believed in making noise. In his heyday, there were few public petitions championing liberal ideas that didn't lead off with his name. He seldom hesitated before pledging his undying loyalty to the most obscure of humanitarian and often socialist crusades, over his portable phone while lounging poolside at his country estate north of Toronto.

The bluster that has marked his daily passage through a crowded lifetime was just that. Bluster. He has always been kindly and generous to everyone except public relations flacks bearing self-inflated messages. Still, Berton's body language could at times be deafening. Before the congestive heart failure from which he suffers reduced his volume, his knack of emphasizing his convictions with a voice that must have frightened moose, left little room for argument. Passionate and opinionated, he has never been marked by the gloomy introspection of his calling. His Yukon heritage produced not only some of his best books but kept him from becoming a full-fledged member of the Toronto literati and its indulgent, self-obsessed ways. That's what keeps his focus so clear, and his prose so unpretentious.

When we appeared together at the Vancouver Writers Festival in the fall of 1998, he walked with the aid of a cane, appearing drawn and debilitated. But once we started debating the glories of popular history, he came alive, the energy visibly flowing back into his body, like some proud buck cakewalking in the sun. I knew then that the wellspring of his talent would never run dry—that it might die with him, but never before him.

Marching as to War amply confirms that judgment. At age 81, he is still in top form, and as it happens, on top of the news. It's a doozer of a book.

Berton's scathing description of the 1942 raid on Dieppe, which ranks as Canada's most grievous (and most senseless) defeat of the Second World War, is classic. In relentlessly unravelling the blame for that botched operation, Berton angrily castigates not only the Canadian generals involved (mainly McNaughton and Crerar) but concentrates his fire on Louis Mountbatten, the admiral in charge of Britain's combined operations, and prime minister Winston Churchill himself.

What makes Berton's books so valuable and so readable, including this one, is his eye for anecdotes, those tidbits of observable trivia that illuminate human character. His chapter on the shameful banishment of nearly 18,000 Japanese-Canadians from their homes and businesses begins not with a statistical summary of their losses, but with the story of Toshiko Kunta, a 19-year-old who was quietly walking to her Vancouver home when a white man came up to her and spat full in her face. This book, as most of his others, establishes Berton as our Walt Disney, in the best sense of popularizing our sleepy past and infusing it with the retroactive ring of authenticity.

Deference to established academic authorities has never been his long suit. He has not only survived his academic critics, but bested them. Berton understands better than they that history is made up of individual memories refined, the sequence of encounters between character and circumstance. Canada will always have more geography than history, but we cannot learn to appreciate the former unless we better understand the latter.

As we march off to fight this strange war with a 21st century perverse version of the Flintstones, we should celebrate Pierre Berton's ongoing accomplishments. The Big Foot of CanLit is truly a national treasure.

CANADA GOES TO WAR

The country pitches in with the largest fighting flotilla it has sent to sea since the Korean War

BY JOHN GEDDES
AND JOHN DEMONT

Welding torches hissed, hammers clanged and cranes hoisted cargo high overhead at Halifax's naval dockyard, home to Canada's East Coast fleet. Three ships were being readied to sail as the core of the largest fighting flotilla Canada has sent to sea since the Korean War. The order to prepare to join U.S. and British vessels, likely in the Persian Gulf, broke the tension that had prevailed at the base since Sept. 11, and sailors in uniform and civilian workers in coveralls joked easily and stepped smartly on the jetty. But aboard HMCS Charlottetown, the stern faces of crew members on the decks and in the narrow passageways left no doubt they feel the uncertainty of what may be in store. "Let me be brutally honest," an officer of the frigate, who cannot be identified for security reasons, told *Maclean's*. "I am going to be very worried about my wife and two children while I'm away. But when I walk down the jetty, I feel a great deal of pride in what our guys are already accomplishing."

What they were accomplishing was the rapid outfitting of a surprisingly large Canadian contribution to the war against terrorism. As Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley declared in a speech marking one month since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, Canada ranks third, behind the United States and Britain, in its military commitment to the U.S.-led anti-terrorist coalition. That came as a surprise to the many outside critics who had questioned Canada's capacity to mount much of a show of force. In all, about 2,000 men and women in uniform—from sailors to pilots to special-forces commandos—will be involved.

The tally of troops and the dockside bustle in Halifax began to give this unconventional campaign more of the feel of an old-fashioned war. But this remains a fight unlike any Canada has joined. For one thing, it has no plainly stated aim. Asked about what strategic goals Ottawa has in mind—capturing or killing terrorist satrap Osama bin Laden, say, or ousting Afghanistan's Taliban regime—Manley was vague. "I don't think there's a day when we can have a ticker tape parade and say that we've won the war against terrorism," he said. "Every day that we carry on our lives and that people live in freedom in our society is another day of victory for us."

Steps to safeguard that home-front freedom began in earnest last week. Ottawa announced $250 million in security measures, including $55.7 million to buy bomb-detection equipment for airports, and $8 million for fingerprint scanners to give police at airports, border crossings and ports the ability to instantly check if the prints of suspicious travellers are on file with the RCMP or the FBI. About $49 million will be spent tightening up the immigration and refugee system. A new, harder-to-forge permanent resident card for new immigrants will be in use by next June, and up to 100 new immigration officers will be hired to improve scrutiny of new arrivals at points of entry.

This week, federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan is slated to unveil a major package of laws to back up those new security measures. Liberal sources said her omnibus bill will outlaw membership in terrorist organizations, and define terrorism for the first time



HMCS Charlottetown is one of three frigates being dispatched to the Gulf

Andrew Vaughan/CP



The aftermath of an air attack in Kabul

Stoyan Nenov/Reuters

TERROR FROM THE SKIES AND IN THE U.S. MAIL

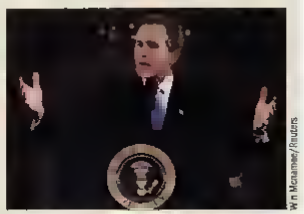
Watch out, Osama bin Laden—John Walsh is on your case. After U.S. officials released a list of 22 sought-after terrorists last week, Walsh, the tough-talking host of Fox's *America's Most Wanted* said he'd help "take these lowlifes down." He was serious. the show's Web site claims it has helped bring 683 fugitives to justice, so why not the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and his "psycho buddies" as Walsh called them?

On a day when the FBI warned of possible new terrorist threats, any help was welcome. Last week's U.S.-led bombings of targets in Afghanistan heightened fears of reprisals against America and its allies. Especially worrying for Westerners living abroad was the murder in Kuwait of Luc Ethier, 36, an aircraft technician from Montreal who was gunned down on the street along with his wife, who survived.

Security fears were further fuelled by cases of anthrax, a potentially deadly disease that is caused by spores making their way into the lungs or, in a less dangerous form, the skin. Three positive tests for pulmonary anthrax occurred in Boca Raton, Fla., at the offices of American Media Inc., which publishes the tabloid *National Enquirer* and *The Sun*. Bob Stevens, a 63-year old *Sun* photo editor, died of the disease on Oct. 5; traces of anthrax were discovered on his keyboard. Two other employees who had anthrax spores in their nasal passages but had not developed the disease were placed on antibiotics and were considered in no danger. In New York City, an assistant to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw was diagnosed with the less serious cutaneous anthrax after handling an envelope filled with a brown granular substance. And on Saturday, another envelope, delivered to a Microsoft subsidiary in Reno, Nev., tested positive for anthrax.

The war on terrorism, meanwhile, continued. As the U.S. and Britain sent more troops to neighbouring countries for an anticipated ground campaign in Afghanistan, President George W. Bush made one more offer to the Taliban. Turn over bin Laden, he said, and the alliance may halt its assault. The Taliban refused, defiantly, so the bombardment, including the use of so-called bunker-busters designed to attack underground hideouts, continued. "We are dismantling their military, disrupting their communications," Bush told reporters. "And slowly but surely, we're smoking Al-Qaeda out of their caves so we can bring them to justice." But Bush also acknowledged that, in a remote and desolate land, that goal may take a long time to achieve.

James Deacon



Win McNamee/Reuters

Turn bin Laden over, Bush demanded

in Canadian law. As well, McLellan is expected to make it illegal to raise money for terrorism—a big step forward from widely criticized legislation tabled earlier this year that would merely have stripped charitable status from groups that not only finance terror, but also issue tax receipts to their donors. More potentially controversial will be any new surveillance powers McLellan's package gives police. The civil liberties implications of such measures were debated last week behind closed doors by a special cabinet committee on terrorism, chaired by Manley, but the details were kept tightly under wraps.

The new airport security measures and McLellan's legislation may change the way Canadians view the Liberal government's response to Sept. 11. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's early reaction was widely regarded as halting and uninspiring—especially compared to the flair for crisis leadership in the age of 24-hour TV news displayed by Britain's Tony Blair. But the Chrétien government is now making a concerted push to change that perception. Manley went so far as to boast that Canada is now ahead of the U.S. in beefing up security.

Coming from Manley—who has been a fount of pro-U.S. rhetoric, and eager to reassure Washington of Ottawa's full co-operation in any anti-terrorist campaign—that bold claim had some credibility. "I'm very conscious of the fact that there have been some U.S. legislators and journalists who have, somehow or other, tried to implicate Canada in what had happened, or suggest that somehow we are a risk to the United States," he told reporters in Montreal. "It is not necessary for them to define the necessary security measures for us."

While shoring up border and airport security will help, military participation could do even more to give Canada credibility with George W. Bush's administration. The Charlottetown, along with a destroyer and a supply ship, will set out, likely this week, from Halifax, while HMCS Vancouver, another frigate, is being sent from the West Coast. A third frigate, HMCS Halifax, was already serving in NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic, and was directed immediately to the Persian Gulf. The air force is sending three Hercules transport planes, one Airbus, and two Aurora maritime patrol planes. A small group of perhaps 100 soldiers from the secretive commando-style unit called Joint Task Force 2 have also been assigned, and might even see action on the ground in Afghanistan.

While the precise role of Canada's sea, air and small special-forces contribution has not been spelled out publicly, senior Canadian Forces officers are confident it will be more than symbolic. Rear Admiral Bruce McLean, commander of Canada's East Coast forces, said the five ships will play a "workhorse" role supporting U.S. and British vessels. "There will be an opportunity in this operation to do a wide range of tasks," he told *Maclean's*. "We won't be launching Tomahawks. But we will provide the kind of presence and support and help with defence and depth in that region." And McLean noted that Canada's navy has worked with the U.S. navy in the Persian Gulf enforcing the economic sanctions against Iraq. "I am very comfortable with our level of preparedness to operate in a familiar piece of water."

In fact, the Charlottetown returned from the Persian Gulf in June, after six months of duty helping the United States monitor shipping to and from Iraq. The task included boarding vessels to make sure they weren't smuggling crude oil or other cargoes. Under normal circumstances, the ship's crew would have spent last week in Halifax preparing for a series of relatively routine combat readiness trials planned for November off Puerto Rico. Instead, they were getting ready for a mission of indefinite duration—Operation Apollo, the Canadian code name for supporting the U.S. mission Operation Enduring Freedom—one that could take them into harm's way.

Below decks, during a guided tour of the vessel conducted exclusively for *Maclean's*, all seemed eerily calm. The bridge was immaculate and silent. The crew's quarters—built for 220, but which may have to accommodate more sailors and air crew during this mission—sat mostly empty. Deep in the bowels of the ship, a few monitors flickered in the operations room where weapons technicians will, if necessary, fire the Charlottetown's missiles, torpedoes, machine-guns and anti-missile guns. The ship also carries

SAILING AS TO WAR

Canada is sending five ships, six planes and about 2,000 service personnel to join the military campaign against terrorism. The day after American and British forces launched their missile and bomb assault on Afghanistan on Sunday, Oct. 7, Canada announced its biggest military commitment since the Gulf War against Iraq in 1990. Elements of Operation Apollo

DESTROYER

The destroyer HMCS Iroquois, commissioned in 1972, refitted in 1992, sailing from Halifax this week, presumably to join a U.S. aircraft-carrier battle group

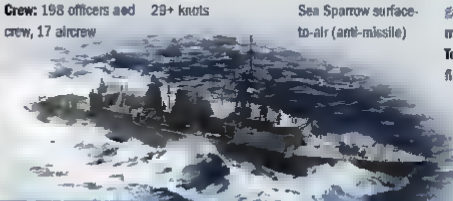
Function: Canadian task group command and control, area air defence
Crew: 225 officers and crew, 30 aircrew
Length: 130 m
Weight: 5,100 t
Maximum speed: 29+ knots
Guns: 76-mm Melara Super Rapid gun (anti-missile, anti-ship), 20-mm Vulcan Phalanx gatling gun (anti-missile, anti-aircraft)
Missiles: 29 or more Standard guided missiles (land attack, anti-ship, anti-aircraft)
Torpedoes: six tubes firing Mk 46 (anti-submarine) torpedoes
Helicopters: can carry two twin-engined, '60s-vintage Sea Kings



FRIGATES

The frigates HMCS Halifax (rerouted to the Persian Gulf from NATO duties in the Atlantic), HMCS Vancouver (sailing from Esquimalt, B.C.) and HMCS Charlottetown (sailing from Halifax) are heading for the battle zone. They are among the 12 modern frigates Canada commissioned between 1992 and 1996.

Function: Multiple roles include surveillance, air defence
Crew: 198 officers and crew, 17 aircrew
Length: 134 m
Weight: 4,770 t
Maximum speed: 29+ knots
Missiles: eight Harpoon surface-to-surface (anti-ship), 16 Sea Sparrow surface-to-air (anti-missile)
Guns: 57-mm Bofors (anti-aircraft, anti-ship), 20-mm Vulcan Phalanx gatling gun (anti-missile, anti-aircraft)
Torpedoes: four tubes firing Mk 46 (anti-submarine) torpedoes
Helicopters: can carry one Sea King



SUPPLY SHIP

HMCS Preserver (sailing from Halifax) carries fuel, cargo and ammunition for the Canadian task group

Crew: 365
Length: 172 m
Weight: 24,700 t, loaded
Maximum speed: 20 knots
Helicopters: can carry three Sea Kings



Photos by DND

AIRCRAFT



Three Hercules transport planes, two Aurora long-range patrol planes and one Polaris (Airbus) that can carry passengers, freight, medical equipment, etc., will join the war on terrorism

GROUND FORCE

A contingent of the Joint Task Force 2 special operations unit is joining the anti-terrorist force for unspecified duties. Other forces could be committed later

Source: Department of National Defence

one of Canada's aging Sea King helicopters. "The team has risen to the occasion magnificently," said one of the ship's officers as he surveyed the systems. "We're going to be ready."

Commissioned in 1995, the frigate is as long as a football field, but doesn't feel roomy. When the "battle stations" alert is sounded, sailors scoot down metal stairs with just inches of space to spare. The executive officer's cabin is less than six feet by six feet. But the Charlottetown boasts a few homey touches. The passageways carry street names like "North River Road" from the Prince Edward Island capital, and the walls are decorated with memorabilia from the ship's namesake city. There are also exercise bicycles so the crew can work the flab off, important aboard a ship where the cooks turn out four meals a day—breakfast, lunch, supper and midnight snack. For other recreation, the vessel features three lounges equipped with TVs, VCRs, stereos and card tables. Crew members can keep in touch with their families with free e-mail accounts and on-ship telephones.

For now, though, the frigate's officers are focusing on the ship's fighting capabilities, not its amenities. "This is not training," said one officer. "For many sailors, there is a great deal of satisfaction in finally being able to do what they were trained for." Family members about to be left behind in Halifax were more ambivalent. "I never dreamed that after six months away he would be home for 3½ months and then gone again," said Susan, 34, wife of one of the Charlottetown's operations room officers. "But I never dreamed of something like Sept. 11 either." Susan, who asked that her last name not be used, will be doubly concerned for the Charlottetown's safety this mission: her brother, also an officer, is a navigator on the Sea King helicopter the frigate will carry.

Lorie Hall, 28, a B.C. provincial government employee whose husband is a crew member of HMCS Vancouver, felt the impact of the attack on New York's World Trade Center more personally than most: her father had helped erect the first of the twin towers as a young steelworker. And the Vancouver, Hall knew, was the designated high readiness ship for the West Coast. "For me, it was not a matter of if they went, but when," she said. But there was no opportunity on Sept. 11 to speak with her husband about her emotions. He slept aboard that night, as the ship went on high alert, ready to leave on one hour's notice.

The Vancouver didn't depart immediately. But its crew and their families were advised to get their financial affairs in order, and to seek counselling if needed. The Vancouver sailed on Oct. 6 for a long-planned military exercise off San Diego, its status still unclear. That Sunday, the first strikes hit Afghanistan, and the next day Lorie learned, while listening to CBC Newsworld, that her husband's ship would join a U.S. carrier group. The news hit some spouses hard, but Hall has a stoic streak. "It's not a secret—ships go to sea," she says. "This is their job, what they've been training to do." Her husband will likely miss his son's third birthday while the frigate is on the mission. Lorie will probably spend Christmas with her family in Newfoundland.

Stories of men and women in uniform and the loved ones they leave behind inevitably stir patriotic feeling. That leaves critics of federal defence policy in a delicate position: how to go on slamming military spending as too low without seeming to deride Canadian units heading into danger as not up to the task? Opposition parties are expected to tread lightly when the war against terrorism is debated Monday in the House of Commons when MPs return from a week-long Thanksgiving break. Only the NDP is opposed to attacks on Afghanistan, on the grounds that any military action should be taken only under the auspices of the United Nations. But even the NDP plans to take pains to voice support for Canadian forces heading for the Middle East and Central Asia. "That frees us up to be more critical," said NDP House Leader Bill Blaikie, but he added his party plans to be "careful about what we say."

Critics outside the political arena are less constrained. Clive Addy, a retired army major-general, scoffed at the term "punching above our weight," which was repeatedly used by cabinet ministers last week to describe Canada's contribution to the war. "That's classic spin," said Addy, who just ended his term as chairman of the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes of Canada, an organization of former military and RCMP officers. "What we have done is offer up a tremendous proportion of what little we have." He estimated that the five ships committed amount to about one-third of Canada's navy, and questioned the Canadian Forces' ability to sustain such a large contribution beyond about six months. As for the shadowy Joint Task Force 2, Addy called the anti-terrorist unit a "world-class, highly skilled organization." But he added that the task force's main mandate is to be ready to respond to terrorist threats at home—making this a particularly bad time to have a large portion of the unit abroad for long.

Exactly what role the secretive JTF2 might play is a matter for speculation. As for the ships, helicopters and planes, the likelihood of them seeing much action appeared remote. After all, the main war effort, so far, revolves around U.S. and British air strikes, launched against a landlocked country from aircraft carriers and land bases. Afghanistan's Taliban regime and Osama bin Laden's terrorist network have no real ability to mount conventional military assaults on ships or warplanes. That has Canadian naval officers contemplating other kinds of threats. "For our last deployment, everyone onboard had a refresher course in how to defend against biological and chemical warfare," said one aboard the Charlottetown. "So they are ready if it comes to that."

That sort of nebulous danger—not bombs and bullets but the prospect of stealthy terrorist attack—preys on the minds of the sailors' families. "It's scary," said Terilynn Regimbal, 39, wife of a seaman aboard the Preserver, the supply ship in the naval task group. "I try not to think about it." The strain of dealing with a covert enemy also showed in the extraordinary security measures the department of national defence took last week. Security around bases was unusually tight and access for media to officers serving in Operation Apollo was very limited. The department first issued, then rescinded, an instruction to Canadian Forces personnel to not wear their uniforms on their way to and from work. Apparently, the order was made out of concern that rank and file members might be the targets of attacks after Canada announced its participation in the anti-terrorist coalition.

If the edict against wearing uniforms off bases initially sounded like wild overreaction, it started to look more prudent when the FBI issued a warning a few days later that terrorists could strike soon again in the United States. On some days, in this strange new war, it seemed the uncertain dangers faced by Canadian Forces members heading towards the action were shared, at least a little, by everyone staying behind.

With Julian Beltrame in Ottawa and Ken MacQueen in Vancouver



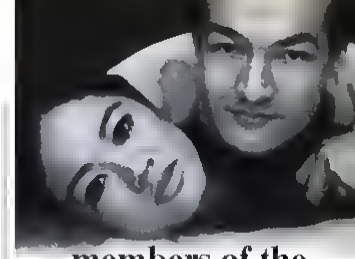
Dan Dai is for Maclean's

Rising to the occasion: about 2,000 members of the Canadian Forces will be shipping out

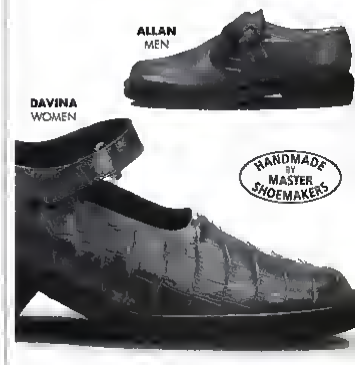
TARGET: THE TALIBAN AND BIN LADEN

Where bombs and missiles landed (some are multiple hits) since Oct. 7





members of the
MEPHISTO
movement



1 SOFT-WALK SHOCK-ABSORBING HEELS
Ease pressure on the joints and the spine

2 AIR-BAG SHOCK ABSORBERS
Relieve the stress and strain of walking

3 MULTI-GRIP CREATED SOLES
Ensure firm footing and maximum support.

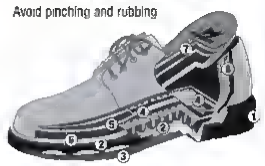
4 AIR-ACTIVE AIR CUSHION SOLES
Reduce on-the-go wearriness

5 AIR-JET AIR CIRCULATION SYSTEM
Procures a soothing sensation of freshness.

6 SOFT-AIR SHOCK-ABSORBING INSOLE
Guarantee a light, carefree stride

7 AIR-RELAX REMOVABLE INSOLES
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WAITING FOR UNCLE SAM'S HELP

Afghanistan's Northern Alliance needs U.S. aid to turn the tide

BY ARTHUR KENT In Northern Afghanistan



Last Sunday marked the close of the first week since history's greatest superpower began trying its hand at the art of war in Afghanistan. With tangible evidence of progress as thin on the ground as high-value targets of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda quarry, it's tempting to reach for the history books and start thumbing through the feats and follies of Alexander the Great or Genghis Khan or the 19th-century English and 20th-century Soviet empires, to see how these past masters, too, came to regret trying to redesign the nature of this extraordinarily wild frontier.

But that would be premature. Because in the case of the Taliban, the Bush administration has picked a fight with an adversary whose time—as the first defections from its ranks last week demonstrated—is already up. After only two days of bombing, it was not only the improving aim of the Taliban's enemies, the Northern Alliance, but also weak knees among many of its own allies, the tribes and local militias Mullah Omar and his cohorts have relied upon for their staying power until now, that set off the beginnings of a meltdown—a rot from within the extremist regime.

But questions remain: will the U.S.-led coalition agree to let the most seasoned, capable ground forces in the theatre, and the only ones with real knowledge of Afghanistan, play a full role? And will those forces, the Northern Alliance, be in a position anytime soon to capitalize fully on the blast waves that have shaken the Taliban?

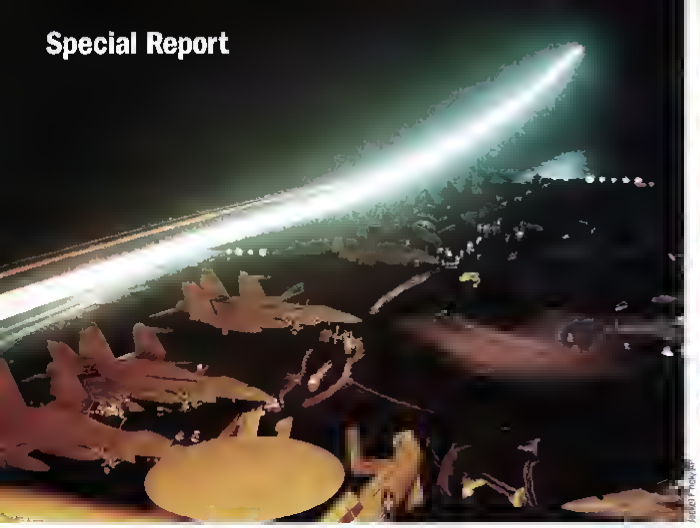
On both counts, the answer's a stuttering maybe. The Bush administration's tepid attitude towards the Northern Alliance reveals Washington's preference to look to Pakistan for significant, perhaps decisive, influence in shaping a post-Taliban government. And, true to form, Pakistan's military has been bad-mouthing the Northern Alliance as grasping, unrepresentative warlords whose return to power in Kabul would trigger further conflict.

Shah Alum, now a dapper Northern Alliance official, was formerly a field commander in one of the roughest sectors of the battlefront in Takhar province, the district of Khaliffghan. Late last week he said, "We have received no new equipment from the United States, not a single bullet. The Americans are following their own plan; they're only bombing the cities, not targeting the Taliban on the front line where it would help us greatly." Despite reliable reports of substantial advances by Northern Alliance



Rebel fighters have made advances

Odd Groncholy/Reuters







A jet takes off from the USS Enterprise in the Arabian Sea on Oct. 11 (far left); Rabbani discussing the future of Afghanistan with Rakhmonov (in suit) in the presidential palace in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on Oct. 10; bombs with chalked messages waiting on the deck of the Enterprise

forces in several remote provinces of the country, made possible by defections among formerly pro-Taliban forces, the Alliance had still not received enough in the way of weapons and offensive co-ordination with the Americans to give them the decisive advantage they currently lack.

For example, the Northern Alliance's leading commander in the West, Ismael Khan, appears to have secured two provinces that will be key to the drive to capture his main objective, the city of Herat. Ismael Khan had been poised, since this past summer, to take both provinces, Badghis and Ghor, and his seizing of the initiative created by the U.S. attacks confirms his longstanding reputation as the biggest, most effective anti-Taliban player in the northwest.

Further to the east, other Northern Alliance commanders have won strategic advantage, if not complete control, of another two provinces, Samangan and Baghlan, that will be vital in any final assault on the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. In the former, the coaxing away from the Taliban of some 1,200 local fighters enabled Northern Alliance forces to cut off the only remaining road connection to Mazar from Kabul, the capital, in the south. In neighbouring Baghlan province, Alliance groups from the northeastern homelands of the slain commander, Ahmed Shah Massoud, successfully deployed new artillery, purchased from Russia earlier this year, to push the Taliban further north towards their other main urban stronghold in the region, Kunduz.



Massoud complained about the lack of help

While neither Mazar nor Kunduz will be a pushover for the Northern Alliance, the Taliban garrisons in the two cities are now completely cut off from Kabul. Resupply is impossible, and communications with the leadership in both the capital and Kandahar, far to the southwest, has reportedly been badly disrupted by U.S. air strikes. But against this, the tortuously slow process of waging offensive warfare on Afghanistan's hostile terrain, and the prospect of winter snows fast approaching, means there will likely be no swift, sure conquests of the three northern cities for the Northern Alliance.

Every rocket round, cannon shell and belt of ammunition for light machine-guns must be hauled over mountain tracks that will soon succumb to winter rains and sleet. Mud and ice-slick rock will frustrate the armies scrambling across the landscape, all of them are now desperate to secure the best position possible before Afghanistan's heavy snows bring autumn fighting season to a halt.

As isolated and threatened as Taliban forces might be in the north, their enemy on the ground was not yet receiving the weaponry, transport, food or clothing—much less operational support—that would make dramatic advances possible before winter. While U.S. transport planes have begun regular flights in to airbases in Uzbekistan, there were no visible signs of large-scale movements of arms or equipment across the border to Northern Alliance-held territory.

In Dushanbe, the Alliance's military attaché and his staff met for two days last week with U.S. and Russian delegations, and a highly placed source at the Northern Alliance embassy in the Tajikistan capital told *Maclean's* that the Americans in particular are signalling that more support will be forthcoming. As astonishing as it is that the Pentagon launched its air war prior to consolidating any kind of working relationship on the ground, its potential allies in Afghanistan are speaking softly and carefully. Rather than shouting their disappointment at getting the cold shoulder militarily, Northern Alliance leaders are gently, but publicly, reminding the Americans that no ground operations against either the Taliban or Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda can hope to be successful without the help and participation of alliance forces.

Their dilemma was personified last week by the visit of the Northern Alliance's president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, to Dushanbe. Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov rolled out the red carpet for the Rabbani entourage, perhaps hoping to remind anyone watching from the outside world that the leader of his country's principal Afghan ally remains a head of state—recognized, still, by the United Nations as president of his country, although he has been forced since the Taliban's seizing of Kabul in 1996 to live in his shrinking dominion in Afghanistan's mountainous northeast.

These have been hard years for Rabbani and his people. The smooth and handsome Tajik features of the young professor who rose to leadership of his moderately fundamentalist Jamiat Islami party in the late 1970s now look pale and drawn. The dark beard that once framed his friendly, open smile is now as white as any snowfield in the Hindu Kush. But his eyes remain bright and hopeful, and he skilfully walked a political tightrope when he faced a gathering of journalists in Dushanbe. (This was no mean feat: some of those impatient, grumbling reporters had been waiting two weeks for a place on one of the infrequent helicopter flights into Afghanistan.)

Rabbani said he approved of the U.S. air strikes, but stressed that civilians mustn't be targeted. In careful diplomatic language, he noted that he and his military leaders are still waiting for more help from Washington. He let it be known that the Northern Alliance realizes it hasn't yet been fully taken in to the American's game plan, and on this point, Rabbani let his indignation get the better of him. He reminded reporters that he and his defence minister, Ahmed Shah Massoud, had warned the U.S. for seven years about the dangers posed by the Taliban regime.

For those who have watched firsthand the Afghan tragedy unfold over the past two decades, there was a sense of déjà vu in the auditorium. The spectacle of one of the country's best, most respected leaders waiting in vain for understanding and aid from the outside world is nothing new. Another Afghan who constantly ran up against Western indifference in his lifetime was the man who would have undoubtedly drawn quicker, surer support from the U.S. for the Northern Alliance: Ahmed Shah Massoud. The famed guerrilla leader once told me: "The Americans talk about assistance, but they haven't done anything practical to help reduce the suffering of my people."

Massoud said that in 1986, 15 years before his assassination—by suicide bombers of the same terrorist organization that wrought havoc in New York City and Washington. Back then, he was bemoaning the fact that he was the last resistance commander fighting Soviet occupation forces to receive heat-seeking Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. This, despite many Soviet generals acknowledging him, even then, as unquestionably the best of their mujahedeen foes. Then, as now, Massoud's fighters and people placed a distant second to Afghan groups and personalities favoured by Pakistan, America's pushy, stubbornly expansionist middleman in Washington's adventures in Afghanistan.

As Rabbani made clear last week, the predominantly ethnic Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara people represented by the Northern Alliance have no desire to rule disproportionately over the mainly Pushtun south. Rabbani reiterated his support of the Rome process centred on the former king of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, a Pushtun, who offers at present the only feasible mechanism for drawing together the disparate peoples of the country. The Northern Alliance, Rabbani says, is prepared to do more than its share of the fighting, provided his people are granted a representative role in a future government.

In a region where intransigent, preposterously dogmatic factions have caused strife from Chechnya to Sri Lanka, and from the Middle East to China, the professor-turned-president presents a modest and rational, if only partial, alternative for Afghanistan. But, like trying to determine exactly when the first big snowfalls will choke down on these mountainous battlegrounds, judging when or if the Bush administration will wrap Rabbani's Northern Alliance fully in to its war plan remains guesswork.

At the same time, the lack of any quick, visible victories leaves one thing clear. Without large-scale ground assaults on fortified Taliban cities and positions, the American phase of the Afghan war could well be every bit as long and cold, as bloody and costly, as any of the tragic military misadventures that preceded it. m

WALKING A FINE LINE

Muslim countries supporting the U.S.-led war on terrorism face domestic militants openly hostile to America—and hailing Osama bin Laden as a hero

BY TOM FENNELL

As twilight settles in over a park tucked neatly under the Kasr El-Nil bridge in downtown Cairo, pairs of lovers holding hands watch the Nile lap softly at its banks. Winter—if 31° C can be called that—is setting in and a slight breeze has washed away the stench of smog. The scene is one of serenity, but anger over the U.S. and British attacks on Afghanistan burns among many of those who have come out to enjoy the evening. As she gazes over the river, her white *hijab* hiding her hair, Nanees Ahmed, 21, tells *Maclean's* she dreams of striking back at the United States by "uniting the Arabs in one world and cutting off oil to the United States and Europe."

Such sentiments seemed contagious last week as protests against the American-led anti-terrorism campaign spread through the Muslim world. Mobs rampaged, holding aloft images of Osama bin Laden, hailing him as a hero and chanting his name. Even moderate Arab states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia are not immune, and their regimes could yet collapse under the weight of protest. "The United States thought they could play chess with the world," said a 42-year-old Saudi businessman now living in Amman, Jordan. "Well, bin Laden is a cult figure now—a man who denied himself the material benefits he inherited to fight for the dispossessed."

While most Muslim states support Washington, they walk a fine line. None are supplying military aid to the anti-terrorism effort. Worried leaders have also strongly opposed expanding the war outside of Afghanistan. But in a letter to the United Nations Security Council delivered on Oct. 8, John Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to the UN, warned that action may have to be taken in "other states." Among the potential targets: Iraq, possibly the Philippines, where Osama bin Laden continues to supply arms to Islamic extremists—and perhaps Lebanon, where the Bekaa Valley is home to the terrorist group Hezbollah—Party of God. In the latter case, predicts Michael Lynk, a Middle East expert at the University of Western Ontario, in London, "There would be an uprising if the Americans bomb the Bekaa. The Hezbollah are seen as legitimate resistance fighters who drove Israel out of Lebanon."



Beawiharta/Reuters

The message from Jakarta was clear

There is no shortage of fuel for the flames. In most Arab countries, nearly 50 per cent of the population is under the age of 25, poor and disillusioned. Many blame corrupt, often oil-rich governments for their predicament. That those governments are sometimes friendly to Washington, whose continued support for Israel has caused deep resentment across the region, doesn't help. "We have more foreign meddling in our affairs than any other region in the world," says Abdullah Abbadi, 38, an information technologist in Amman. "And a whole country was taken away from the Palestinians. It's too much."

Such frustration could bring down governments. Although their collapse is not imminent, analysts believe Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, all with large, militant Muslim populations, could be facing a threat. The 30,000-strong Saudi royal family has the most to lose. It controls the world's largest supply of oil, even as the country's 14 million people have undergone an economic decline and are clamouring for a more equitable share of the wealth. Many see the continued presence of a U.S. military force as a foreign occupation—infidels desecrating the land that is home to Islam's holiest sites. Claims by the country's rulers that the Americans are protecting Saudi oil interests fall on skeptical ears. "They are protecting their own interests," said a student in Riyadh. "They don't care about Saudi interests." And bin Laden, a Saudi national until his citizenship was revoked in 1994, has given voice to dissent. "Washington facilitated his rise while Arab kids were getting killed with U.S. weapons in the West Bank," a political analyst in Riyadh noted. "The Saudi royals feel they will have to pay the price for what they see as Washington's arrogance."

Unlike Saudi Arabia, Egypt has little oil. Its once-strong economy has stagnated under President Hosni Mubarak, who came to power in 1981 and now operates what amounts to a police state. The impoverished masses in the country of 68 million, says David Welch, a professor of international relations at the University of Toronto, are increasingly finding their political voice through Muslim fundamentalist groups like Islamic Jihad. Welch says such organizations are deeply entrenched within the country, providing important public services. "The [fundamentalists]," says Welch, "have a very powerful political mobilization capability." There were reports last week that terrorists had targeted Egypt at the same time as they were attacking the U.S., but were discovered and stopped.

Muslim fundamentalists, Welch says, are less well organized in Pakistan. But the country is still a powder keg—by late last week, anti-American rioting had left five people dead and forced President Pervez Musharraf, the head of the military government, to place the leaders of the country's Islamic political parties under house arrest. Musharraf also removed army officers with sympathies towards the Taliban. But there are ominous signs that militants may have more deeply infiltrated the military. In the wake of the crackdown, a mysterious fire raged through the army's headquarters in Rawalpindi. Spokesmen said the blaze started because of "short-circuiting"—an explanation greeted with disbelief. The possibility of growing co-operation between Washington and Afghanistan's Northern Alliance opposition is also a bone of contention. The Alliance is supported by Pakistan's archrival, India, which could lead the military to oust Musharraf and allow pro-Taliban Muslim fundamentalists to seize power in Islamabad.

In an attempt to ease tensions, American and British politicians have tried to shore up the leadership of Pakistan and Arab countries. President George W. Bush reaffirmed America's support for the creation of a Palestinian state. British Prime Minister Tony Blair toured capitals in the region last week in a bid to keep nervous Arab states on side. He also went on the Arab TV network, Al-Jazeera, to say there are no immediate plans to expand the war outside of Afghanistan. Goodwill gestures—but experts say more is needed. Among other things, the West should give more thought to the future of Afghanistan and how to rebuild the shattered country, says Gordon Smith, Canada's former ambassador to NATO and director of the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria. "They could use Afghanistan," he said, "as a demonstration of what could be done." So far, though, America's critics see only what *is* being done, their anger growing as the bombs continue to fall.

With Asif Noorani in Karachi, Tetiana Anderson in Cairo and Mariam Shahin in Amman


Abdul Majeed/AFP/Getty Images

Violent anti-American protests swept across Pakistan, forcing Musharraf to crack down and place the leaders of the country's Islamic political parties under house arrest

HOW TO FIX THE BORDER

A former U.S. ambassador urges fast action on both sides of the frontier

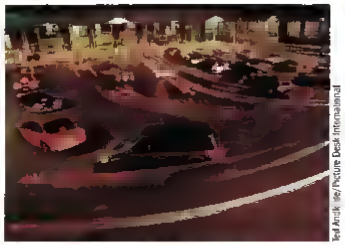
COMMENT

BY GORDON GIFFIN



While the tragic events of Sept. 11 have caused policy-makers in Canada and the U.S. to focus on border management and continental security, the challenges are not new. Rather, just as the 1974 energy crisis forced North America to do something about fuel efficiency in cars, the terror attacks will compel us to resolve border issues we have been discussing and analyzing ad nauseum for years. There are many good, well-researched ideas out there. We must implement them with deliberate speed. Otherwise, some of the simplistic and bad ideas cropping up lately for "fixing the border" will gain momentum.

Two fundamental propositions should be recognized. First, no citizen of Canada or the U.S. is demanding policies that facilitate the movement of international thugs into North America. Second, no citizen of Canada or the U.S. is demanding policies that make movement of legitimate people and goods across our common border more difficult. With those tenets in mind, public officials on both sides of the 49th parallel have an obligation to examine domestic policies and our bilateral co-operation and to make changes.



Ted Aroussi/Picture Desk International

Key inaovations could make crossiag easier

Two reservations, one in Canada and one in the United States, have historically impeded substantive progress. First, in Canada some would assert that collaboration with the U.S. on these issues would erode Canadian sovereignty. Second, in the U.S. some would assert that Canada will never take the actions necessary to secure its borders from terrorists and will therefore be a virtual sieve pouring into America. Both concerns are anachronisms and wrong. The challenges and the opportunities are too significant to permit these old, unfounded straw men to detect progress.

In my mind, the framework of solution is embodied in the time-honoured three-legged stool. Leg 1 is institutional reform in the United States. Leg 2 is innovation at the border itself. Leg 3 is implementation of certain perimeter policies.

First, Leg 1. In the U.S., the Immigration and Naturalization Service is housed in the justice department, while the Customs Service is in Treasury. These two agencies co-exist at the border. It makes no sense to have them administered by two different leaders and bureaucracies. That also goes for the Coast Guard, housed in the department of transportation. These three agencies should be merged. Streamlining their organization and sharing responsibilities would begin to address resource limits.

Then, Leg 2: border innovation. This imperative has been deferred for too long. We should upgrade and share the technology used to run the border. We should merge and expand the existing concepts of the INSpass and Canpass (credit card-like identification that expedites border passage for frequent, legitimate travellers), using common technology and sharing the databases in a fashion that doesn't offend domestic privacy laws. We should share more information concerning the identity of passengers on planes destined for the other's territory. We should share the same physical facilities at the border. We should move clearance of commercial traffic to remote locations, staffed jointly, so that most trucks don't stop at the border (we should also consider policies that facilitate freight movement on rail, since trains don't clog border crossing points).

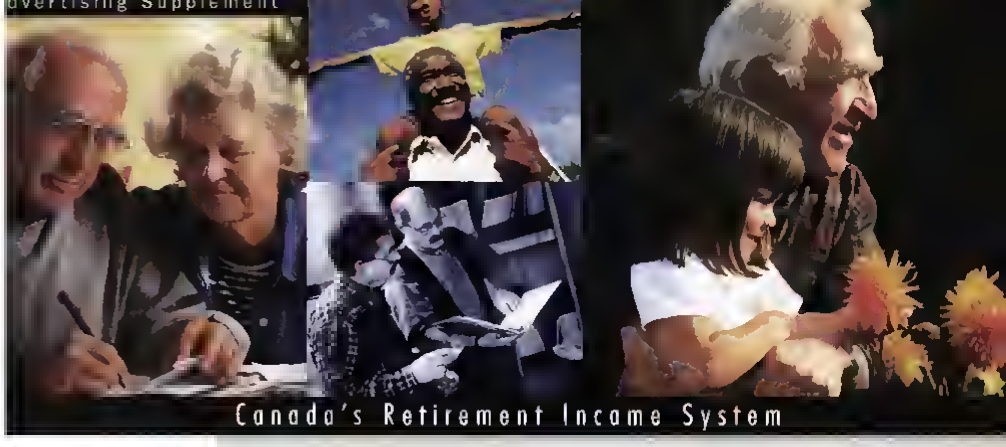
And Leg 3: perimeter policy. If countries in Europe can figure out how to employ some common standards at the water's edge without fear of eroding identity or empowering someone not up to the task, then surely we can do better in North America. Some skeptics assert that this concept is a thinly veiled attempt by the U.S. to cut off immigration or to unilaterally impose its standards for entry on Canada. Let me remind all of us that the United States was founded and developed in significant part by immigrants. Recall that France presented us with what has become an international symbol of openness and freedom, the Statue of Liberty. Her inscription reads, in part: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . I will lift my lamp beside the golden door." We have no intention of turning our back on our heritage by closing that "golden door." However, it is in all our interests to examine more carefully to whom we give the keys.

A perimeter policy does not imply unilateral action. Actually it offers an opportunity for Canada to define the agenda for this dialogue. Since the 1950s, we have jointly defended North American airspace through NORAD. American and Canadian military personnel working together with seamless binational command authority. Those procedures weren't unilaterally imposed by the U.S., and Canada is no less sovereign for its role in that initiative. Surely, if we can have a military perimeter policy, we can find better ways to collaborate on the civilian side as well.

Canada and the United States share much more than geography, and it is our shared values that provide the foundation for this task. The good news is that a lot of work has already been done by thoughtful people on both sides. Now we need the mutual commitment to get it done.

Gordon Giffin was U.S. ambassador to Canada from 1997 until last April. He is now an international trade lawyer in Washington.

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Giving You a Head Start

We all dream about retiring someday. But how do you make the dream a reality? Where will your retirement income come from?

By living and working in Canada, you already have a strong financial foundation for your retirement because our pension system is one of the best in the world.

Its cornerstone is the Old Age Security (OAS) program, available to most people at the age of 65 who have lived in Canada for 10 years or more. OAS includes the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income pensioners, their spouses or common-law partners and survivors between the ages of 60 and 64 may also qualify for the Allowance.

OAS is paid from general tax revenues — no contributions are required. The current monthly maximum is about $440.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) build upon OAS with an additional monthly benefit to people who have contributed to them. Generally, all workers in Canada over the age of 18 must pay into the CPP or the QPP. The two plans work together to ensure that contributors get their benefits wherever they retire.

You and your employer contribute equal amounts to the CPP/QPP. If you are self-employed, you pay both portions. Your contribution is based on your salary up to a set maximum and your pension replaces about 25 per cent of those earnings. Social security agreements between Canada and some 40 countries may help you qualify for benefits from Canada and/or another country.

Normally, you start receiving a CPP/QPP retirement pension at 65. You *can* start as early as 60 or as late as 70, but remember — if you start your pension early, it is permanently reduced by 0.5 per cent for each month that you are under 65. (If you start receiving your pension later, it is increased by an equal amount.) The maximum monthly CPP/QPP retirement payment for 2001, if taken at 65, is $775 a month.

There's more: both the CPP and QPP also provide disability and survivor benefits. If you have a severe or prolonged disability and can no longer work, you may be eligible for a basic monthly income for you and your dependant children. If you die, your estate receives a lump-sum benefit and your spouse or common-law partner and dependent children may receive a monthly income.

Each year before you retire, the CPP sends you a personal Statement of Contributions listing your contributions to the plan. Your statement gives you the financial information you need to make informed decisions about retirement planning.

Together, the OAS and CPP/QPP are important parts of your retirement income. But they are not intended to meet all your needs. You should also have additional income such as employer pension plans, registered retirement savings plans or equity in your home.



Believe it or not, some investors are still promised the moon. That's why the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) encourage investors to become aware of what to look out for when choosing an investment or an adviser. Before you invest, follow these guidelines to help you make the best investment decisions.

- Avoid fraudulent operators by contacting your securities regulator to ensure that your dealer or adviser is registered
- Ensure you are investing in suitable investments by defining your investment objectives and your risk tolerance
- Spread your risk around by diversifying your investments: do not put all your eggs in one basket
- Ensure you know what you are getting into by reading the prospectus of any company in which you intend to invest.
- Be satisfied with the advice you are receiving by asking questions and taking notes during your meetings with your adviser
- Avoid misunderstandings with your adviser by providing him or her with clear instructions on the transactions that you want to execute.
- Protect yourself from fraud by being skeptical of people who promise huge profits

The CSA is an umbrella organization comprised of provincial and territorial securities regulatory organizations in Canada. By overseeing both securities and the advisers that sell and manage these investments, securities regulators protect investors from unfair, improper and fraudulent practices and help ensure efficient capital markets in Canada.

Alberta Securities Commission | www.albertasecurities.com
British Columbia Securities Commission | www.bcsc.bc.ca
Commission des valeurs mobilières du Québec | www.cvmq.com
Manitoba Securities Commission | www.msc.gov.mb.ca
New Brunswick – Office of the Administrator of Securities | Tel.: (506) 658-3060
Northwest Territories – Registrar of Securities | Tel.: (867) 920-3318
Nova Scotia Securities Commission | www.gov.ns.ca/nssc
Nunavut – Registrar of Securities | Tel.: (867) 975-6190
Ontario Securities Commission | www.osc.gov.on.ca
Prince Edward Island – Registrar of Securities | Tel.: (902) 368-4550
Saskatchewan Securities Commission | Tel.: (306) 787-5645
Securities Commission of Newfoundland | www.gov.nf.ca/gs/ccas/
Yukon – Registrar of Securities | Tel.: (867) 667-5005



Canada's Retirement Income System: Giving You a Head Start

Look to Your Future

About 40 per cent of Canadian workers benefit from employer pension plans, in which contributions are made by the employer, the employee or both. Pension plans are generally classed as either "defined benefit" or "defined contribution" plans.

Defined benefit plans pay a monthly amount that is determined primarily by an employee's income and the number of years he or she worked for the employer. Generally, the employer is legally responsible for ensuring that the pension plan has adequate funds to meet its obligations to employees. The maximum pension that a defined benefit plan may provide on a tax-assisted basis is equal to two per cent of earnings for each year of service, up to a specified maximum. Plans may use a measure of "best average" or "final average" earnings to calculate the pension (e.g., the best five or the final five years' earnings). Under this type of plan, someone who has worked for the same firm for 25 years and is eligible for a full pension could expect an annual pension of up to 50 per cent of his or her income.

In contrast to a defined benefit plan, a pension from a defined contribution plan is based on how much has accumulated in your plan at the time you retire. The most you and your employer can contribute to a defined contribution plan is 18 per cent of your earnings, up to an annual maximum of $13,500. Some employer pension plans are integrated with the CPP. It is important to find out from your employer if your pension will be reduced at 65, and if so, by how much. Also be aware that integration does not mean that you'll get one only payment. You'll receive two separate payments and once you begin receiving your CPP retirement pension, you'll continue to receive it throughout your life with annual cost-of-living increases.

Your Pension Options if You Leave Your Job

If you leave an employer before retirement, you generally have three options. You can leave your money with your former employer's plan and draw your pension when you reach retirement age. Or, if your new employer agrees, you can transfer your pension fund to your new employer's plan. Alternatively, you can transfer your plan to either a "locked-in retirement account" or a "locked-in RRSP," depend-



bring your retirement to life. **you can get there.**

NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS
YOU'RE ON SOLID GROUND



David Logan, CFP
Bank Manager

On Snow Shovels and Other Essential Financial Instruments.

There are a lot of ways to build your present and future retirement incomes and David Logan, CFP, manager of the Royal Bank in Erin, Ontario, is qualified to discuss the particular benefits of every category of savings and investment instruments. The snow shovel, preferably one with a steel blade, may be his personal favourite. Mostly because it has very efficiently cleared the way for customers who took the first step in financial planning: they went to see Dave.

It snows a lot in Wellington County, where agriculture has deep roots and technology businesses have become worldbeater enterprises. But eventually spring arrives as inevitably as submitting one's tax return. Which is why there is never a better time than now to investigate tax planning for you, especially if you're self-employed.

As an aspect of any financial plan developed by you with a CFP professional, tax planning is, well, instrumental to success. Success planned by David who is one of about 13,000 CFP professionals in Canada and 60,000 throughout the world. Each one serving people just like you.

To hold the CFP designation, individuals just like David must meet demanding standards in Education, Experience and Examination. And they are held to a strict Code of Ethics. Annual continuing education requirements keep their counsel current.

Whatever your walk of life, from dairy farming to computer engineering, a CFP professional can help you get a handle on your future. If you're on the path to build your present and retirement incomes, your next step should be to visit us at **www.cfp-ca.org**.



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ing on the nature of your specific plan. Unlike regular RRSPs, these plans place restrictions on the withdrawal of funds.

RRSPs Are Important

Whether you are a member of an employer-sponsored pension plan or are self-employed, an RRSP may be an essential part of your retirement planning. You may contribute up to 18 per cent of the previous year's earnings to a maximum of $13,500, minus your pension adjustment, in such a plan. (The pension adjustment reflects the value of the annual benefit you earn in your employer-sponsored plan.)

Your contributions are tax deductible, and any interest, dividends and capital gains earned by the investments grow tax free as long as they remain in the plan. The amount of money you have in your RRSP when you retire will reflect how much you contributed each year, the number of years you contributed and the rate of return you earned on your investments.

The rule of thumb is that, over the long term, a diversified portfolio of stocks will provide a higher return than a portfolio of bonds or GICs, which, in turn, will provide a higher rate of return than a portfolio of treasury bills.

Whether you should choose growth over income depends primarily on how much investment risk you can handle. Risk refers to the volatility of an investment's rate of return.

For instance, if you had held only treasury bills in your RRSP for the past 10 years, the lowest return you would have had in a single year would have been 3.4 per cent, and the highest around 7.8 per cent (this calculation is based on periods ending June 30). Overall, your 10-year compound rate of return would have been 5.2 per cent.

In contrast, annual rates of return for the TSE 300 composite index, which represents the performance of 300 major companies traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, were far less predictable and ranged from a low of -23.1 per cent to a high of 47.4 per cent. Your 10-year compound rate with this type of investment would have been 10.7 per cent, more than double what you would have earned with treasury bills.

75 Years of Public Pensions

Canada's seniors enjoy one of the lowest poverty rates in the world, in large part because of our public pension system.

The first pension was established 75 years ago in 1927. The federal government introduced the Old Age Pension in recognition that seniors had a right to a minimum level of support from society. Unlike today's Old Age Security (OAS), which goes to almost all Canadians 65 and older who meet minimum residence requirements, the original Old Age Pension was available only to people who passed a means test.

In 1952, with the support of organized labour and all political parties, the OAS pension was established for all Canadians 70 and older. The government also introduced Old Age Assistance for people 65 to 69 whose incomes were below a specific level. In the 1960s, the qualifying age for Old Age Security was dropped to 65.

The CPP and QPP were established in 1966 to provide workers across Canada with a pension plan they could carry from job to job — and that also provided some financial protection in case of death or disability. Because full pensions wouldn't be available for 10 years, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) was also introduced to provide a minimum income to seniors who needed help before that time. The GIS later became a permanent part of OAS to add a further level of protection to low-income seniors.

The federal government and the provinces continue to act as joint stewards of the CPP and have amended the plan to meet the changing needs of contributors and beneficiaries. Provisions have been included that remove very low earning years from the calculation of benefits, ensure that benefits are fully indexed to the cost of living and provide for the sharing of credits upon the breakdown of a marriage or common-law relationship. And the plan is flexible enough to allow people to apply for a retirement pension any time between the ages of 60 and 70.

A new investment policy has been put in place that allows excess contributions to be invested in capital markets to achieve higher returns. The CPP Investment Board was established to manage these investments at arm's length from government (**www.cppib.ca**). QPP funds are invested by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (**www.lacaisse.com/en_index.html**). This will help ensure that the CPP remains affordable and will be there for future generations.



Generally, people who are approaching retirement or are already retired are advised to keep a portion of their holdings in fixed-income securities to reduce the volatility of their investment performance. The percentage will vary among individuals, based on the amount of their assets, their income needs, and their willingness to accept risk.

Don't Forget About Investment Costs

To benefit from diversification and professional management, many Canadians use mutual funds and insurance company segregated funds for their RRSP savings. However, acquisition and management fees and expenses can have a bearing on returns and should be considered when making investment choices.

Management fees and expenses charged to investors vary by type of fund, but for Canadian equity funds average about two per cent of the value of the assets of the fund. There may also be sales commissions, payable when you acquire or redeem fund units. Some funds are sold "no-load," which means you pay no commission when you buy or sell. Others are sold with an acquisition fee that is negotiable and may vary from zero to about five per cent. Still others are sold with a redemption fee that declines with the number of years a fund management company handles your money, reaching zero after seven years in some cases.

The trend in the industry has been towards lower commissions, with large investors often paying no commission on the purchase or redemption of a fund. Salespeople and advisers are compensated with a portion of the management fee instead.

Management expense ratios should be considered, especially when choosing among funds with very similar portfolios and objectives. Most money-market fund portfolios are virtually identical, and cutting costs can have a major impact on your returns. Index funds, which are set up to mimic a well-known index, such the TSE 300, typically have lower management expense ratios than actively managed funds.

Several provincial securities commissions provide a mutual fund fee impact calculator on their Web sites to allow investors to determine the effect of management fees and acquisition costs on investment returns.

Develop a Financial Plan

Ensuring an adequate retirement income is only one financial objective. Depending on your circumstances, you may want to set aside funds for your children's education, for a down payment on a home or to pay off debt. The difficulty many people have when funds are limited lies in determining their financial priorities. Would it be better, for instance, to contribute to an RRSP, pay down their mortgage or increase their life insurance coverage?

If you are in this situation, you will almost certainly benefit from a financial plan. It will consider your current situation, including spending, budgeting, assets and liabilities, your life and disability insurance and your goals and objectives, including retirement planning, estate planning and investment planning.

The first item on your agenda — whether working by yourself or with a financial planner — is to gather all your financial information and draw up lists of what you own and what you owe. Don't forget to consult your CPP or QPP Statement of Contributions when you receive it so you can estimate your CPP/QPP retirement pension.

In most cases, your first priority should be to get rid of any high-interest non-deductible debt such as outstanding balances on credit cards. Most charge interest rates of 18 per cent or more. No investment can consistently provide an after-tax return of 18 per cent. If you have a balance on your credit card and investments such as GICs, Canada Savings Bonds, stocks, bonds or mutual funds outside your RRSP, consider selling or redeeming them to pay down your debt. If you don't have any assets, look for ways of refinancing your credit card debt with a bank loan to cut your interest expenses.

If you work with a qualified financial planner, he or she will review your life and disability insurance coverage and determine whether they are adequate for your needs — and make recommendations. A planner will also look at your situation for ways to minimize your taxes. Depending on your age and financial situation, you may consider estate planning a priority. Even people with minimal assets should draw up a will, no matter how old (or young) they are.

A planner will also examine your retirement savings and other investments, if any, and advise you on their suitability relative to your investment objectives and risk tolerance. But your financial planning doesn't stop with the creation of a plan. To determine whether you are on track to meet your objectives, it should be reviewed at least annually and whenever there has been a major change in your situation that could have an impact on your goals.

Check Your Adviser's Qualifications

Make sure your financial advisers are qualified. Always check with your securities regulator to ensure your advisers are licensed to sell the securities they are offering you. As well, ensure they have a clean record with no disciplinary actions taken against them. Look for professional designations, seek references and ask a lot of questions. Only Quebec currently has legislation that restricts the use of the term "financial planner" to people who meet specific stringent qualifications. Other provinces are looking to set minimum standards for people in the securities and insurance industries who provide financial planning and similar advice. Regulators expect to have rules in place early next year.

Minimum qualifications for a financial planner in Quebec include relevant education — a diploma awarded by the Institut québécois de planification financière (IQPF) — and enrolment in a recognized continuing education program. Advisers must hold a certificate from the Bureau des services financiers to practise financial planning and to use the title financial planner.

The most widely recognized financial planning designation is the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation awarded by the Financial Planners Standards Council. Holders must complete a recognized financial planning education program, pass a proficiency examination and subscribe to a code of ethics. Other financial planning designations include Registered Financial Planner (RFP), issued by the Canadian Association of Financial Planners, Personal Financial Planner (PFP), issued by the Institute of Canadian Bankers and Financial Management Adviser (FMA), conferred by the Canadian Securities Institute.

The Canadian Securities Administrators (an umbrella organization of securities regulators from all provinces and territories) has developed a booklet, *Choosing Your Financial Advisers*, which is available online at the Web sites of several securities commissions to offer guidance to people seeking a financial adviser.

Professional organizations can also refer you to qualified individuals. The Association québécoise de la planification financière (AQPF) provides an online directory to help people find a planner, as does the Financial Planners Standards Council. Or you can contact the Canadian Association of Financial Planners (CAFP). You can, of course, also ask friends, colleagues and relatives for names of potential advisers.

Ask a lot of questions of your candidate. Determine whether the individual is paid a commission, charges a fee based on time spent with you or the size of your assets, or earns a salary. Find out what specific services the adviser offers. Some will provide you with a complete financial plan, while others specialize in investments, insurance, taxation or some combination of these.

Ask also whether the adviser you are meeting with will handle your account or whether other staff members will do so.

If the adviser recommends specific financial products such as stocks, mutual funds or segregated funds, ask how he or she arrived at these recommendations. In some cases, the advisers themselves are making the recommendations, in others, the firm provides a list of recommended products for the adviser to use. In either case, ask for the qualifications of the people who make these recommendations. ■

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NERVOUS ENERGY

Chemical suits, jet fighters in the skies—Canada gets a case of the jitters

BY ROBERT SHEPPARD

Fear, it seems, knows no boundaries It crosses borders on little cat feet, a whispered threat here, a tainted letter there And last week, Canada—we're at war, don't you know?—took a full shot of it right in the snoot

No sooner had the FBI ramped up a criminal investigation into anthrax poisoning at a lurid tabloid in Florida than an employee at a sister publication in Montreal received a suspicious substance in a letter from Florida Police cordoned off six city blocks along downtown Sherbrooke Street during rush hour and evacuated buildings as firefighters in chemical suits scoured offices for the deadly bacteria All this before the FBI issued a terse two-sentence warning on Thursday that another terrorist attack could come within days Welcome to the free world in the midst of an international war against phantoms

By week's end, Canadian health officials determined there was no biological agent in the Montreal letter But the anthrax scare—it's a lethal bacteria that has been used without success by terrorist groups before—continued: one man dead in Florida, two co-workers at *The Sun* infected, and a fourth, apparently unrelated case confirmed in a woman working at NBC Nightly News in New York City On Saturday, there was yet another confirmed anthrax letter, this time in Nevada. Police didn't seem to know which way to turn.

Montreal had its letter scare on Tuesday On Wednesday, two border crossings to the U.S. just south of the city closed for several hours because of bomb threats On Thursday, a suspicious envelope forced the evacuation of the Quebec provincial police headquarters, provoking Montreal police Chief Michel Sarrazin to implore Quebecers to get on with their lives and to muse "Dormant [terrorist] cells are the worst nightmare of any police organization." On



Andre Forget/CP

Montreal firefighters inside a six-block sealed-off area during an anthrax false alarm

Friday, there was another border closing, this time for four hours at Queenston, one of the busiest crossings between Ontario and New York, after a loose substance was spotted in a U.S customs office. Another frightening scenario emerged on the weekend when *The Globe and Mail* reported that the RCMP are investigating the discovery of box cutters on an Air Canada plane that was grounded on Sept 11, just before its scheduled 9 a.m takeoff from Toronto to New York City

Such scares shut office buildings and transit lines in at least nine cities in Canada and the United States last week A lunch bag inadvertently left on a subway

bench in Toronto halted a commuter line during morning rush hour In Winnipeg, a relative visiting from California raised the spectre of anthrax—police and environmental officials were called—when a family of five fell ill after opening a package of latex gloves from Malaysia. It turned out to be an allergic reaction An unmarked parcel shut Halifax's main naval yards briefly, while in the same city, a deaf and mute Kuwaiti man on his way to visit family in Montreal was turfed off a plane crew and passengers panicked as he tried to go to the washroom before takeoff

Hysteria? No, but certainly evidence of mass anxiety, says Martin Antony, chief psychologist at the Anxiety Treatment and Research Centre at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton. And while it is not healthy, he adds, it may be unavoidable: major traumatic events often create an expectation of something similar happening again. "Our referrals at the centre aren't up noticeably," he says. But the fallout from the terrorist attack on Sept 11 "is all anyone talks about. There is a sense of uncertainty, an inability to plan, a fear of travel."

Perhaps compounding the anxiety, federal and provincial authorities lurched into action with promised plans to bolster domestic security. The most unnerving: Canadian fighter jets flying over major cities, prepared to shoot any hijacked airliner out of the sky at the call of the federal minister of defence and the Prime Minister. Intentions were to be reassuring. But Alberta Premier Ralph Klein put off a trip to New York to ease American concerns about energy supply because he said he felt it was more important to stay by the home front. Ontario, meanwhile, though saying a terrorist threat was extremely remote, began stockpiling vaccines and antibiotics. Federal Health Minister Allan Rock announced a similar pooling of vaccine and health resources with the United States, Mexico and Britain.

Rock's initiative was part of a $250-million federal plan that includes beefing up police and security operations at airports, and creating a more tamper-proof photo ID for immigrants. Some airports and border crossings will get new bomb-sniffing equipment and fingerprint scanners. Biometrics—the ability to accurately identify individuals through fingerprints, eye scans or facial configuration—"is the coming wave," says Roy Maguire, president of ADT Security Services Canada, the country's largest provider of commercial and residential security systems. "It will be costly, it will affect personal privacy, and it will slow things down. But that's the way things are going."

For the moment, however, the solution is largely low tech: bodies on the ground. Yellow-jacketed private security officers make themselves visible at Vancouver's port and the cruise-ship terminal at Canada Place. Dow Chemical Canada stepped up security at its facility near Edmonton to "Level 3 alert"—more personnel at the gates, employee ID cards inspected by people rather than machines and increased patrols along the perimeter. "We are not trying to instil a sense of panic," says spokeswoman Nancy Fullerton. "We just want to make sure everyone feels safe on-site."

Of course, one person's safety is another's anxiety. Since Sept. 11, Canada's Muslims have been subjected to at least 90 incidents of harassment and threats, according to the Council on American Islamic Relations (Canada), an Ottawa-based human rights group. In at least seven cases, mosques were defaced or firebombed. Someone who has seen it firsthand is Clarissa Masters, a Muslim from Surrey, B.C., who wears the scarf-like *hijab*. "I've had notes written in blood on my door, on my car," she says. "I've had a knife stuck in my tire. I've had people confront me in the grocery market and the mall. We Muslims have the same fear of going into big tourist attractions as you do," she says. "But we also have the fear of walking down the street as soon as it goes dark, when creepy people feel it appropriate to attack us."

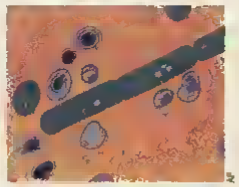
Many Canadian Jews also feel themselves on the front line because Israel has been a historic target of Islamic extremism. "We've had death threats," says Keith Landy, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. "My synagogue in Thornhill [Ont.] was vandalized. Someone spray-painted 'Jews must die. Long live bin Laden.'" Those with family and friends in Israel have become accustomed to living with the spectre of suicide bombings. "One never really gets used to this," he says. But he is starting to see Canadians of other faiths grappling as well with the fanaticism and fears that know no border.

With John DeMont in Halifax, Benoit Aubin in Montreal, Brian Bergman in Calgary and Ken MacQueen in Vancouver

Are police and immigration authorities unfairly targeting people of Middle Eastern descent in the bid to root out terrorists? www.macleans.ca

A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH CHEMICAL WARFARE

Canadian soldiers were present at the first major battle involving chemical warfare. On April 22, 1915, the Germans released an eight-kilometre wide cloud of chlorine gas towards Allied lines near Ypres, Belgium. Canadians, following orders to remain in their trenches, urinated on their handkerchiefs, then spread the cloth over their faces. Casualties were high, but the high concentration of urea and ammonia in the urine provided protection against the chlorine, as it would against mustard gas in subsequent attacks.



Anthrax spores and cells

Canadian scientists have had a strong interest in the subject ever since Dr. Frederick Banting, winner of the 1923 Nobel Prize for medicine for the development of insulin, later focused his efforts on chemical and biological warfare. (The scientist who oversaw Germany's chemical warfare development, Fritz Haber, also won a Nobel, for chemistry in 1918.)

Other Canadian connections:

- The first factory production of anthrax as a weapon of war took place in Canada during the Second World War, although it was never used on anyone.
- Canadiens mounted chemical and biological warfare simulations in Alberta in the early 1940s. After using animals as test subjects, they subjected Canadian soldiers, unknowingly, to chemical attacks. Because some poisonous gases attacked soft tissues in the body, the program soon halted when soldiers suffered burns and lesions and severely inflamed testicles.

Timothy Burr in Vancouver

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Diabetes

Research: Rising to the Challenge



More than two million Canadians are affected by diabetes. What are we doing about it?

Dorita's story

When 64-year-old Dorita Corby was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes last October, she took her doctor's lifestyle recommendations seriously. She needed to lose weight and start exercising, and her diet... well, her diet probably needed the biggest overhaul of all. Recent research advances are helping people like Dorita to lead healthy, active lives.

Know who to turn to

CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION | ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DIABÈTE

By Yiva Van Buuren



Life cycles: Regular physical activity and a healthy diet are key ways to prevent type 2 diabetes.

In a diabetes education centre in Toronto, Dorita learned how to reduce the amount of fat and sugary foods that she ate, how to make healthier food choices overall and how walking every day is good for the heart, soul — and pancreas. By the following April, Corby had lost 70 lbs, she was managing her blood glucose without medication, her high-glucose flushes and skin rashes were gone and she had more energy and confidence than ever.

Corby's new lifestyle and attitude would be good for anyone — especially aging baby boomers and their parents who are most at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. (Most Canadians with diabetes have type 2, while about 10 per cent have type 1.) While age and genetics are components of type 2, its prevalence has tripled in the last 30 years and much of the increase is being blamed on increasing weight. In a population that has become more and more sedentary, obesity also seems to figure into the growing incidence of type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents and in high-risk populations such as the aboriginal community.

Today, health experts estimate, more than two million Canadians have diabetes — although 30 per cent of them are undiagnosed.

Of course, they're not alone in their fight against the disease. The federal government has launched a Diabetes Strategy, which includes a prevention and promotion plan, a new comprehensive national database and an aboriginal diabetes initiative. At the same time, the Canadian Diabetes Association is partnering with many other groups such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Kidney Foundation, Dietitians of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, for a stronger, wider-reaching voice to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The overall message is one of prevention, and while government and health organizations are putting safety nets in place, taking action is ultimately an individual decision. Recent studies including the U.S. Diabetes Prevention Program have shown that people who are overweight and have higher than normal blood glucose levels can lower their chances of getting the disease or even prevent type 2 just by losing weight and starting to exercise. Donna Lillie, the national director of research and professional education for the Canadian Diabetes Association, Toronto, adds: "Because type 2 diabetes is asymptomatic in its early stages, it frequently goes undiagnosed for many years. A number of people, when

CHECKLIST

The earlier you find out you have diabetes, the sooner steps can be taken to manage the disease and prevent or delay complications. The Canadian Diabetes Association recommends routine screening for the presence of diabetes in people 45 years and older as well as earlier testing of other individuals at increased risk. A simple blood test will determine a diagnosis.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Those who:

- Are age 45 or over
- Are overweight
- Are of Aboriginal, Asian, African or Hispanic descent
- Are related to someone with diabetes
- Have high cholesterol



- Have higher than normal blood glucose levels
- Have high blood pressure or heart disease
- Have given birth to a large baby (over 9 lbs) and/or have a history of gestational diabetes

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1-866-223-HOPE (4673).

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R & D: The Canadian Diabetes Association plays a leading role in the area of research, providing $5 million annually through the Charles H. Best Fund.

diagnosed, have probably had it for several years They're being diagnosed because of a complication" The complications of diabetes are serious and include blindness, amputation and kidney failure, and up to 70 per cent of people with diabetes die of heart related problems

"We used to focus just on sugar in treating diabetes," says Dr Lawrence Leiter, an endocrinologist at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto "But now we recognize that's not enough." Diabetes is a progressive disease and management of type 1 and type 2 means getting a better handle on preventing the complications too Doctors now treat high cholesterol and blood pressure levels just as aggressively as glucose levels, and the trend for treating people with type 2 diabetes is towards making lifestyle changes and "polypharmacy" or prescribing a number of different medications for optimal health Someone with diabetes, for example, may take pills to help manage blood glucose as well as medication to lower blood pressure and cholesterol, and Aspirin to reduce the risk of heart attack At the same time, says Dr Leiter, the range of medications for diabetes continues to improve

• Newer versions of insulin sensitizer drugs (such as Avandia, Actos and several others under development), reduce insulin resistance and may lower blood glucose to a greater degree and have more effect on cholesterol abnormalities Those drugs, says Dr Leiter, may put less strain on the pancreas allowing a failing pancreas to work for a longer period of time

• For insulin resistance, newer versions of drugs that increase insulin secretion are faster acting (including Gluconorm and the newer Starlix) and more convenient — for example, there's now a once-a day formulation (Diamicron)

• There are drugs that delay absorption of carbohydrates after a meal (such as Acarbose), which may be easier on a failing pancreas

• There are anti-obesity drugs such as Xenical, which works in the gut to decrease absorption of fat, and Meridia, which works on the brain to decrease appetite

• Designer insulins called analogues are chemical modifications that come in faster and slower-acting formulations and make it easier to control day-to-day and meal-to-meal swings in blood glucose levels

• Viagra, and at least two other similar drugs to be released in the next year or two, treats erectile disfunction, which may occur because diabetes affects blood vessel walls and nerves

• New drug formulations to look for insulin that is swallowed in pill form, inhaled into the lungs or absorbed through the inside of the cheek, and further down the road drugs that selectively protect the kidneys or nerves to help prevent complications

One of the most important aspects of diabetes management is keeping blood glucose at recommended levels The Diabetes Control and Complication Trial and the UK Prospective Diabetes Study have shown that tighter glucose control leads to a decrease in long-term complications Of course, one way to check blood glucose is to lance the finger and then analyse the blood using a glucose meter — that's a daily ritual that millions of people with diabetes wish could be performed more easily and with less discomfort. Dr Vincent Woo, an endocrinologist at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, says that "with innovation and research, eventually every person with diabetes will be able to test accurately, painlessly and at any time they wish." Currently, manufacturers are designing equipment to be less painful, use alternate site testing such as the forearm, thigh or upper arm, use less blood and provide quicker analyses

Some of the most exciting developments in technology include continuous glucose monitoring systems that help doctors and patients keep track of glucose levels over a longer period of time and show the effects of meals, exercise, insulin, medications, etc One system uses a glucose sensor placed under the skin with a needle Available soon a wrist worn device that non-invasively monitors glucose levels with a small electric current conducted through the skin In the future, infrared light or similar technology that "reads" glucose levels either through the skin or other body parts and monitoring technology hooked up to an insulin-providing device and a computer.

RESEARCH

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research announced in late August that the University of Alberta will receive $1.3 million for its groundbreaking project in islet cell transplantation. The medical team there made international headlines over a year ago with its protocol for transplanting insulin-producing cells, called islet cells, from donor



until there's a cure



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Erectile Difficulties

Your Sexual Health Inventory

In the last 6 months:

1. How do you rate your confidence that you could get and keep an erection?
- 1 Very low
- 2 Low
- 3 Moderate
- 4 High
- 5 Very High

2 When you had erections with sexual stimulation, how often were your erections hard enough for penetration?
- 0 No sexual activity
- 1 Almost Never/never
- 2 A few times (much less than half the time)
- 3 Sometimes (about half the time)
- 4 Most times (much more than half the time)
- 5 Almost always/always

3 During sexual intercourse, how often were you able to maintain your erection after you had penetrated (entered) your partner?
- 0 Did not attempt intercourse
- 1 Almost Never/never
- 2 A few times (much less than half the time)
- 3 Sometimes (about half the time)
- 4 Most times (much more than half the time)
- 5 Almost always/always

4. During sexual intercourse, how difficult was it to maintain your erection to completion of intercourse?
- 0 Did not attempt intercourse
- 1 Extremely difficult
- 2 Very difficult
- 3 Difficult
- 4 Slightly difficult
- 5 Not difficult

5. When you attempted sexual intercourse, how often was it satisfactory for you?
- 0 Did not attempt intercourse
- 1 Almost never/never
- 2 A few times (much less than half the time)
- 3 Sometimes (about half the time)
- 4 Most times (much more than half the time)
- 5 Almost always/always

Score

Add the numbers corresponding to questions 1-5. If your score is 21 or less, you may be showing signs of erectile difficulties. Please talk to your doctor for further information.

1-800-230-5035

www.edhelp.ca

pancreases into the livers of adults with type 1 diabetes. Today, there are 10 to 12 people with successful transplants beyond one year, says Dr. Edmond Ryan of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, while 64 per cent of those people are off insulin and all of them are making some insulin. "We have shown that we can get people off insulin and get them to have stable blood sugars," says Dr. Ryan. "It has been a big step forward and has given hope to anyone with diabetes." The goals now: to develop an unlimited supply of insulin-producing cells and to develop transplants without having to use anti-rejection drugs.

The project is a great example of the way that Canadians are making an impact on the progression of research in diabetes, says Dr. David Hill, scientific director at Lawson Health Research Institute of St. Joseph's Health Centre and the London Health Sciences Centre in London, Ont., and chair of the national research council for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The Canadian Diabetes Association also plays a leading role in the area of research, providing $5 million annually through the Charles H. Best Research Fund. The projects it funds range from leading edge insulin research to research that could directly benefit a person with diabetes.

For example, there is a lot of work going on in the area of genetics, says Dr. Hill. Just as is the case in type 1 diabetes, there are susceptibility genes for type 2 diabetes. A London, Ont., doctor is researching the genetic predisposition for type 2 diabetes in First Nations people in Sandy Lake, Ont.

An electronic health records pilot project at the London Health Sciences Centre has collected data from some 5,000 diabetes patients into a single database. This information, says Dr. Hill, can identify population trends, which can be applied to individual patients.

Other projects under way: researchers at McGill University in Montreal are studying certain types of cells in the pancreas that look like they're equivalent to stem cells, which means they could generate new insulin-producing beta cells. And research into prevention is looking at why the body's white blood cells sometimes destroy the insulin-producing cells and how to "educate" the immune system to ignore autoantigens, which trigger the autoimmune response. Another exciting area of research involves Glucagon-like Peptide or GLP, which stimulates the secretion of insulin and could be important in treating insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes. ■

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT IS DIABETES?

Diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot properly store and use fuel (glucose or sugar) for energy because there is a problem with insulin, which is produced by the pancreas.

TYPE 1 DIABETES

Usually diagnosed in children, type 1 is an autoimmune disease when the cells that produce insulin are being destroyed and, eventually, the pancreas can no longer produce insulin.

TYPE 2 DIABETES

Type 2 occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body does not effectively use the insulin it does produce.

GESTATIONAL DIABETES

A temporary condition that affects two to four per cent of all pregnancies and involves an increased risk of developing diabetes for both mother and child.

SYMPTOMS CHECKLIST

- Frequent urination
- Unusual thirst
- Change in appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Extreme fatigue
- Irritability
- Blurry vision
- Tingling in hands and feet

Note: *Many people with type 2 diabetes do not display any symptoms.*



ABOUT THE CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Diabetes Association is a charitable organization with more than 150 locations across the country. It takes a leading role in supporting Canadians who are directly affected by diabetes, and their loved ones, through research, education, service and advocacy. The Association's 5th annual conference is October 17-20, 2001, at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. Clinicians, scientists, educators and people with diabetes will share information about the disease as well as practical management issues. To be launched at the conference is *Just the Basics: Healthy Eating for Diabetes Management and Prevention*, a new reference tool that provides lifestyle tips.

RISING FROM THE FIRE

Hamilton's religious leaders unite to combat hatred

BY SUSAN McCLELLAND

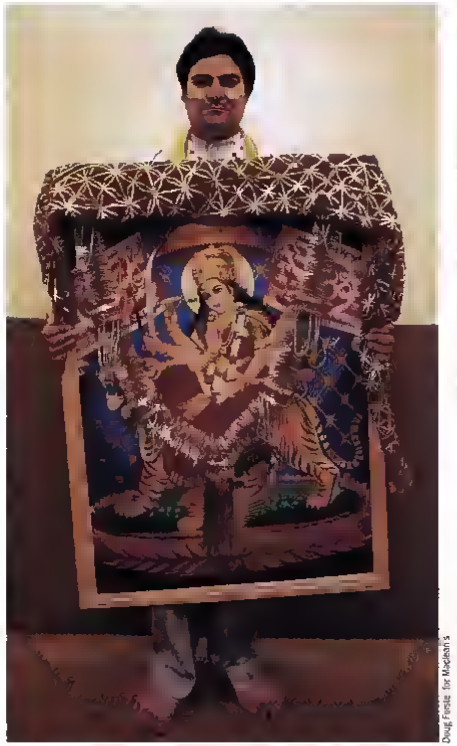
Priya Sharma recounts a Hindu teaching. "A temple isn't just the building it is located in," says the 16-year-old Hamilton student. "You can find God anywhere." It is a lesson that Priya has come to appreciate in recent weeks. On Sept. 15, the Hindu temple that she has attended since she was a baby was destroyed by racists who, police say, set fire to the building thinking it was a mosque. Temple officials estimate it will take about a year to rebuild the facility, so for the next few weeks, the Hindu congregation, led by Pandit Hari Bhajan Sharma (no relation), will hold its Sunday worship at a hall owned by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal order. After that, it will move into a Mormon church. "It was very different," says Priya Sharma of the first Sunday she spent at the Knights' hall. "The walls are lined with pictures of Jesus and the Pope. It made me more resolute to remember my faith and rebuild our temple."

Since the terrorist events of Sept. 11, acts of violence against visible minorities have been reported all over North America. Nowhere in Canada, however, have hate crimes been more prevalent than in multicultural Hamilton. On the same night that the temple was destroyed, racists threw beer bottles at the front lobby doors and screamed obscenities at Muslims leaving the city's largest mosque, the Hamilton Mosque. And a man left a disturbing message on the mosque's answering machine saying that in retaliation for the World Trade Center attacks, he was going to rape five-year-old Muslim children. No arrests had been made by late last week.

The backlash appalled members of all faiths. "The crimes are based on skin colour and ignorance," says Narendar Passi, president of the Hindu Samaj of Hamilton and region. "We may live in a multicultural society, but many people know nothing about their neighbours." Leaders of all of Hamilton's religious groups are now standing together against intolerance and in support for one another. They commissioned a local graphic artist to design a poster showing the symbols of 12 area religions with the slogan "An attack on one is an attack on us all"—the same language used by NATO in response to the attacks on the United States. Various community and religious groups are also fund-raising to rebuild the desecrated temple. And since Sept. 11, the city's senior Muslim official, Imam Yahya Fadlalla, has repeatedly and publicly condemned the terrorist assaults on the U.S. He invited people of all faiths, including Jews, to visit his mosque, and has spoken to the congregations at three local Christian churches.

Not everyone is backing the unity of religious leaders, though. Irwin Zeplowitz, rabbi of the Jewish Temple Anshe Sholom, says he has heard rumblings against his stand in support of Muslims. But he persists. "Change in the end won't come about because of military action," he explains. "It will come by us accepting each other and by religions dealing with the fringe elements within their faiths." One fuel of racism, he contends, is the belief some have that their particular God and way of worship is the only way. That leads to religious fundamentalism and extremism, and it can happen in any monotheistic religion. When an aggressive political agenda is backed by religious fanaticism, he adds, "it is a deadly problem."

For some, it's tough to simply forgive and forget. In fact, given the task ahead of him, Hamilton Hindu temple's past chairman of the board, Mani Subramanian, says it's easier to become angry at what the racists did. The interior of the temple was designed and built by skilled artisans from India, and the building's insurance is not adequate to cover the replacement costs of that intricate work. On top of the settlement, the congregation needs to raise at least $250,000 to rebuild the facility. But Subramanian also recalls the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, the Hindu activist who said: "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind." With that faith, a temple will surely rise. m



Doug Forste for Maclean's

For Pandit Sharma, the Hindu temple is temporarily portable

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U.S. official in the Reagan era called Trudeau a "leftist high an pot"

Bettmann Corbis/Magnum

THOSE DAMN YANKEES

The hardy perennial of Canadian anti-Americanism is back—in full flower

BY J. L. GRANATSTEIN AND NORMAN HILLMER

Sunera Thobani is just the latest in a long line of America-bashers. The University of British Columbia professor told an Ottawa women's conference on Oct. 1 that while she sympathized with those who died on Sept. 11, "the path of U.S. foreign policy is soaked in blood" and the United States "is the most dangerous and most powerful global force unleashing horrific levels of violence." They got what they deserved, Thobani implied, to great cheers from her audience of 500. Professors, students, anti-globalization activists and media commentators have joined in the chorus. To them, the United States is being justly punished for its actions abroad.

Why does rabid anti-Americanism stir some Canadians so deeply? What is it about our neighbours that strikes such a chord, even when more than 5,400 innocent Americans died in the terrorist attacks?

The answers lie in an often bitter history. There was a time when the Americans posed a military threat—in 1775 they almost captured Quebec, and in the War of 1812 their armies came very close to gaining control over Upper and Lower Canada. The fear of further invasion—by Irish-American Fenians intent on striking Britain's possessions wherever they could—helped drive the project for Confederation in 1867.

The United Empire Loyalists, descendants of those who resisted the American Revolution, shaped the Canadian future. Fear of attack and an instinctive disdain for U.S. institutions became entwined with economic and cultural concerns. The huge American economy was a magnet pulling Canada and Canadian emigrants towards it; to keep jobs at home, politicians made repeated efforts to gain freer access to the U.S. market. American culture, vibrant and powerful, flooded across the border and, many feared, stifled Canadian creativity.

Canadians could effortlessly view their neighbours with a baleful gaze. They were rich and crass, but also immoral and violent. "We are free from many of the social cancers which are empoisoning the national life of our neighbours," wrote the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* in 1880. "We have no polygamous Mormondom; no Ku Klux terrorism . . . no cruel Indian massacres." Wilfrid Laurier, prime minister at the turn of the century, professed the greatest admiration for the United States, but he went on to note America's furious rate of murders and divorce, and thanked heaven "that we are living in a country where the young children of the land are taught Christian morals and Christian dogmas."

The United States entered the 20th century's two world wars long after Canada had already been engaged. "We won the wars," the Americans claimed, nor without justice, but the braggadocio did not sit well in Canada. In the years after 1945, as the Cold War developed with the Soviet Union, Canada found itself caught up by the American agenda in a global struggle between superpowers, dragged behind the American war machine.

Or so critics claimed. In fact, Canada was as threatened by global instability and communism as the United States, and Canadian governments willingly signed on to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the North American Air Defence Agreement, and spent billions to help defend Canada, North America and the free world.

But there were always strains in the Canadian-American alliance, and they became glaringly apparent during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. A U.S. envoy showed Prime Minister John Diefenbaker the evidence of Soviet missiles secretly deployed in Cuba, but the Chief refused to accept it. Diefenbaker hated President John F. Kennedy ("that callow young man"), and he quickly suggested that the United Nations should investigate, a response that infuriated the Americans. Already reneging on his government's commitment to take nuclear weapons, Diefenbaker delayed putting Canada's forces in NORAD on alert, and he and many in his cabinet let their anti-Americanism run wild.

Canada "would not be forced" to follow the Americans, Diefenbaker told his defence minister. In the greatest crisis of the



Ron Poling/CP

Mulroney and his Tories enthusiastically supported Bush during the 1991 Gulf War

time, Canada was found wanting—except that the armed forces went on alert in defiance of the orders of their government.

The Vietnam War that ensnared the United States fed anti-Americanism, even though opinion polls showed that most Canadians supported presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. Up to 100,000 U.S. draft dodgers and deserters sought refuge here, and universities held teach-ins to denounce Washington's policy and the Canadian corporations getting rich on arms sales to the United States. Kennedy had been murdered, and then his brother Bobby and Martin Luther King. There was racial unrest everywhere and Nixon's Watergate. America was an evil empire.

Morally superior Canadian intellectuals piled on, hatching books with provocative titles like *Silent Surrender* and *Close the 49th Parallel*. Donald Creighton, the country's leading historian, admitted that "I have an incredible dislike and hatred of the United States. I never met one [American] I liked." His colleague W. L. Morton wrote of "messianic" neighbours with an insidious and mediocre mass culture and actually believed that Canada was "so irradiated by the American presence that it sickens and threatens to dissolve in cancerous slime."

Economic nationalism, targeting American branch plants and U.S. investment in Canada, had political appeal during the governments of Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau. Trudeau regularly pulled tail feathers from the American eagle, and fearing that President Ronald Reagan might provoke a nuclear war, launched a global peace mission shortly before he left office in 1984. "A leftist high on pot," sniffed a senior state department official.

Everything changed, or so it seemed, when Brian Mulroney came to power in 1984. His Conservative government sought close relations with Washington, won its free-trade election in 1988, and supported U.S. President George Bush enthusiastically in the Gulf War of 1991. Anti-Americanism seemed to all but disappear, as defunct as the New Democratic Party, especially after Jean Chrétien's Liberals continued Mulroney's trade policies.

But today the hardy perennial of Canadian anti-Americanism is back, returning in full flower even as the Americans grieve their losses. At its best, anti-Americanism is a defence mechanism for Canadians who want to remain independent in an integrated North America. At its worst, it is bias and prejudice, fuelled by envy, hatred and a naïve view of the world.

Yet most Canadians live contentedly as a part of North America even as they struggle to remain distinctive. They appreciate the difference between irrational bile and legitimate differences on policy. They mourn the dead of Sept. 11 and, the polls demonstrate, support the United States in the war on terrorism. So they should, because it is Western values of pluralism, secularism and democracy that are under attack. m

Historians J. L. Granatstein and Norman Hillmer are the authors of For Better or for Worse: Canada and the United States to the 1990s.

FROM BOTH SIDES NOW

COMMENT

BY BOB LEVIN

When you grow up in the States, you drink patriotism like water. You take in Washington at Valley Forge and Lincoln at Gettysburg. You get Lewis and Clark scouting the West and the Conestogas rolling after, the taming of the frontier (or so historian Frederick Jackson Turner told it) transforming Brits, Germans, Swedes and the rest into this new entity called the American. You learn that democracy is great and Americans try to spread it around the globe, although if you mess with Uncle Sam he'll punch your lights out (yes, sometimes America's friends help too). And presiding over it all is the flag, that star-spangled stunner—you wave it, salute it, pledge allegiance to it, kiss it if it brushes the ground, and if you happen to be from Philadelphia you even sing the praises of its creator ("Betsy Ross lived on Arch Street near Second/Her sewing was very very fine . . . "). You hold this truth to be self-evident: you live in the greatest country on earth.



I don't live there anymore. My wife and I left 16 years ago, not for any political reason but for a simple matter of employment. We arrived in Canada on the ice-edge of winter and even then found we liked it, and now, happily, this is home. So here we are in 2001, at the start of the American-led war on terror, and there's discord in the air, pungent as gunsmoke. On open-line shows and in media commentary comes hand-wringing over the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan, along with criticism of past American adventures abroad that supposedly explain, even justify, the terrorist strikes on New York and Washington. Greatest country in the world? Yeah, right, the critics say, greatest menace is more like it. "The path of U.S. foreign policy is soaked in blood," is how Sunera Thobani phrased it, and for all the condemnation the good professor provoked, she neatly embodied a Canadian streak of what's called anti-Americanism.

I don't call it that. And I've never felt it, not in any way that mattered. Can America—and sometimes Americans—be arrogant, loud, oblivious, obnoxious and any number of other unflattering adjectives? Yep. Has American foreign policy in places like Vietnam, Chile and El Salvador been unenlightened, not to mention brutal? Yes again. Do Canadians have a monopoly on this wisdom about their neighbours? Uh . . . no.

Let's, for a moment, travel back to the '60s, that much-mocked decade that provided so much music for future car commercials. OK, fine: long hair, strong hash, etc., but memorable things happened and important things changed. The world of the '50s—simple, sunny, broadcast in black and white or bathed in the too-bright hues of early Kodacolor—was suddenly gone, and along with it the unchallenged lessons of American righteousness. Turned our things weren't so sunny for *black* Americans, or for natives either. Turned out the war in Vietnam wasn't really about spreading democracy at all, and Uncle Sam was getting his butt kicked and you could get yourself killed. Turned our the flag burned if you lit it, as some morons took to doing, you could condemn them and still experience a seismic shift in how you felt about your country, felt *in* your country, as America-Love-It-or-Leave-It sorts ensured, middle finger first.

So Americans know all about America's dark side, or should. You can arrive at a less idealized picture of the place and still love it, the way you love your kids, your spouse—for better or for worse. That doesn't make you anti-American, just a grownup. And so after Sept. 11, after the successive waves of shock and rage and grief, like a death in the family, comes a queasy feeling, Vietnam-conditioned, over Washington's reply. The shouts for retribution do it. The rescue workers' chants of "U.S.A., U.S.A." do it, and the cheerleading in the U.S. media. "God Bless America," "One Nation, Indivisible," "America Rising." And above all George W. Bush does it, for here's a man who partied away the '60s at Yale's Delta Kappa Epsilon, who was using his flukey presidency to push right-wing policies at home and tear up treaties abroad but is suddenly an international leader and America's rock—or so say a needy public and the all-too-obliging press.

But here's the thing about Sept. 11: it transcends all that—all the doubts, all the politics. It offers a rare moment, Pearl Harbor-style, of real-world clarity. Yes, U.S. policies have angered many Muslims, but murderous fanaticism isn't so easily explained and root causes, right now, are not the point. People are trying to kill you and destroy your way of life. There's no alternative to taking them on; even the critics don't offer that. You hope it's done quickly, with a minimum loss of life and regional upheaval. But you hope it's done.

The other thing about Sept. 11: so much for Joe Canada, at least for awhile. What fun is it now defining Canadians by the Americans they're not? Canadians died at the World Trade Center too. Canadians are sailing into harm's way. We're all North Americans, sharing an 8,891-km border, the Rockies and Great Lakes, an immigrant history, TV and movies, a love of sport, a mountain of trade—and a passionate commitment to democracy and peace.

Many of us even share the view that people, wherever they're from, are simply people. Canadians stop me sometimes, catching something in my accent, ask what part of the States I'm from. They ask it with a smile, though.



FOLLOW THE MONEY



The terror crisis has lit a fire under Ottawa's lagging anti-laundering effort

BY KATHERINE MACKLEM

$17 billion in Canada alone; $2 trillion worldwide. International authorities believe these vast sums are laundered annually through banks and businesses, masking ill-gotten gains with the lustre of clean capital. Before Sept. 11, the money was considered to be the proceeds of organized crime. Now, with attention intently focused on Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network of terrorist cells, the world is beginning to understand that those billions of criminal dollars are interlaced with money that funds terrorist activities. "Extremist organizations," says Supt. Dave Beer, who heads the RCMP's proceeds of crime branch, "are by definition criminal organizations: they walk the same path, they work in the same shadows."

Even in Canada—a notorious laggard in the international effort against money laundering—there's been a massive shift in attitude. An anti-laundering law, which had been languishing for 15 months under attacks from the legal and banking communities, was kicked on to the fast track on Sept. 12. In the first week of October, Finance Minister Paul Martin froze the assets of known terrorists and terrorist organizations. This week, as part of Ottawa's raft of major anti-terrorism measures, the justice department is expected to introduce new legislation that will further beef up the anti-laundering law. "Suddenly, the world has awakened to this," says Brian Butler, a senior investigator at the Ontario Securities Commission. "The attacks have galvanized the world."

The ties are close between terrorist groups and organized crime, even though their objectives differ—one, driven by political or religious motives, the other, by greed. They use similar methods to hide money, move money, even raise money. According to an international task force devoted to combating money laundering, terrorist groups finance their operations using the same nasty businesses that organized crime is into: extortion, robbery, fraud, gambling, and the trafficking of drugs and counterfeit goods. Terrorists also have their own distinct sources of funds, such as state sponsorships and charities that operate as fronts.

"When you're talking about the financing of terrorism, there is a traditional element, which is the money-drugs-arms-money circle," says Jeffrey Robinson, author of *The Laundrymen* and other books about organized crime. The Taliban, he says, is one of the biggest drug pushers in the world and accounts for 80 per cent of the heroin distributed in Europe, even—thanks to stockpiles—after a putative ban on opium poppy growing. He suspects much of the Taliban drug money goes directly to support bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. Whatever the source of the money, great effort is put into concealing its trail.

The toughest step in money laundering is the first—converting cold cash into a financial instrument. Often the money earned from an illegal activity is commingled with cash income earned from a legitimate business—say a casino or restaurant or video-rental shop. Once the money is deposited in a bank, says one banker, it's washed. The next step is to hide its trail, and this—thanks to bank secrecy, lawyer-client confidentiality, and offshore accounts—is easy: money skips in and out of bank accounts, numbered companies and offshore institutions. It is wired internationally between individuals using numbered accounts and a multitude of assumed names. It's likely to make a quick stop in Panama, one country that still permits bearer notes. With this financial instrument, ownership of the accompanying asset—company bonds, perhaps, or even an investment certificate in a firm whose owner is difficult to trace—is conveyed to whoever is holding the paper.

The money may also have travelled around the globe through a centuries-old system known as *hawala*, which originated in South Asia and is common among emigrés who send money home privately to relatives. A *hawala*—illegal in many parts of the world—is a network of independent merchants who operate an underground banking system, often across borders, that is based on trust, where records are kept to a minimum and are often in code. Money, in the form of cash or sometimes gold, is left with one merchant who phones or faxes a fellow *hawaladar*, who passes on the sums, again in the form of currency or gold, to the recipient. Later, the second merchant will recoup his outlay, minus a small commission, when money needs to go the other way. In the early 1990s, Scotland Yard busted six merchants who moved $180 million a year between Britain and India. "The *hawala* works because people do not violate the trust," says author Robinson. "If they do, they get killed."

U.S. officials believe the Sept. 11 attacks cost as little as $500,000 (U.S.), or roughly $26,000 per hijacker—not a huge sum of money. After all, the main weapons—the airplanes—were stolen, and box cutters are cheap. Still, the 19 hijackers needed money to cover their rent and living expenses, to pay for airplane tickets and pilot school. Investigators around the world are now searching for the money trail they left. So far, its traces have been well concealed. But it's known that on the eve of the attacks, $15,000 was wired by three of the hijackers to the United Arab Emirates. The sum is thought to be "surplus" funds, left over from the money that financed the hijackings. It was sent in three separate wire transfers to a man, called a "paymaster" by one source, holding a Saudi passport who'd entered the U.A.E. in June and left on Sept. 11 for Karachi, Pakistan. It's also known that 11 of the hijackers stopped in London on their way to the United States. It's suspected the stopover was to pick up money. The *hawala* between London and Karachi is one of the biggest, Robinson says.

Unlike most bin Laden cells, which finance their own activities, these operatives appear to have been given significant financial support. "Think of bin Laden as the chairman of the board of a holding company with lots of semi-autonomous subsidiaries," says Robinson, a speaker this week at a major annual conference in Montreal on money laundering. "He seeds them and says, 'Go do it.' He has enough of them out there, you know. It's a percentage game." Ahmed Ressam, the Montreal-based militant who entered the U.S. with a trunkful of bomb-making material on the eve of the millennium, is an example of the more traditional bin Laden method. Ressam, who will be sentenced in February, was linked to groups in Canada and the U.S. involved in credit-card fraud and counterfeiting passports.

With its proximity to the States, plus sophisticated capital markets, a welcoming immigration policy and lax anti-money-laundering laws, Canada has long been viewed as the perfect locale for washing dirty cash. Chris Mathers, now president of KPMG Corporate Intelligence Inc. in Toronto, worked for 20 years as an undercover RCMP officer. For 10 years, he operated a bogus money-laundering operation. When it came time for meetings with the "bad guys," he recalls, he'd propose Amsterdam or Panama. "I like to go to exotic places," he says. "They'd say, 'Vancouver's nice.' " The reason? "You take a hit for money laundering or drug trafficking in this country and it's almost unheard-of for you to get serious jail time." Canada's reputation among its friends internationally is similarly loose. "Canada is home to virtually every ethnic organized crime group in the world," the U.S. state department lamented in early 2000, in a country report




Chris Mathers


Chris Mathers

Clockwise from left: the RCMP's Beer; Afghan opium poppies; bin Laden; Ressam testifies; a 1995 RCMP sting against a drug-money launderer; part of a $1.5-million cash hoard received by Mathers as an undercover Mountie

Illustration for Maclean's by Claudia Dávila

that began. "Canada remains vulnerable to money laundering."

At the time of the state department report, Ottawa was pushing through Parliament new anti-laundering legislation that brings Canada closer to its international peers. The law was passed in June, 2000, and was expected to go into effect last spring. It calls for mandatory reporting of suspicious transactions by banks and a wide range of other players, including real estate brokers and lawyers. Cash transactions inside Canada—or transfers out of the country—of more than $10,000 must be reported. The measure establishes a new federal government agency, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre, or FinTRAC, which will track suspicious deals and act as a centralized financial intelligence unit. But resistance from the banking industry and legal circles has delayed the law's accompanying regulations. The banks were opposed to the legislation because they didn't want to be gatekeepers or take on what a Bay Street law firm, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, deemed "potentially onerous, costly and in many ways problematic obligations." A veteran Canadian securities regulator retorts that the new law could cost some banks part of their business. "In the industry we regulate, everything deals with making or losing money," he says. "These are the people who think greed is good."



Jon Hrusa/CP

Martin froze terror assets

The banking industry's concern, says Denise Harrington, spokeswoman for the Canadian Bankers Association, is that the new legislation will create "extra work and volume that won't necessarily get at the problem." The banks, which have voluntarily reported suspicious transactions for the past 10 years, have a "long history of co-operating with law enforcement," she says.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada, a national umbrella organization, is taking a rougher stance than the bankers. The law undermines the principle of client confidentiality, says federation president Maurice Lapraine—and once the regulations take effect, the federation intends to launch a constitutional challenge. "For the first time," says Lapraire, "lawyers will have to report to a federal agency what their clients are doing and not tell their clients."

On Sept. 12, some of the controversial regulations were put into the official Gazette, making them active. Still, it won't be until Nov. 8 that mandatory reporting of suspicious transactions—a rule that has been common around the world for years—begins in Canada. And other key elements—reporting of cash and cross-border transactions of more than $10,000—may not be brought into effect before the end of 2002.

Some critics are dismayed not only by the delays in the law, but also by its content. Unlike its U.S. counterpart, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinTRAC does not have law enforcement powers. In fact, police will need to seek a court order before they can get from FinTRAC a detailed disclosure of a suspicious transaction. By comparison, any U.S. law enforcement agency can access the FinCEN database—no search warrant required. "FinTRAC it's simply a way to employ people and pretend Canada's doing something," says Robinson, who is based in London. "Shame on Canada."

To the RCMP's Beer, however, Canada has made impressive strides in the past two years, from the creation of FinTRAC and the coming mandatory reporting of suspicious transactions to the withdrawal from circulation of $1,000 bills, which were popular among carriers of cash. "At this point, we have the laws and regulations in place to provide a good foundation to shed that reputation of Canada being a money-laundering haven," Beer says. And the attacks on the U.S. have had a major impact: "The level of co-operation has just skyrocketed."

That co-operation will be essential. The Canadian financial services industry is so closely intertwined with the U.S. industry that the two have really become one. Now, with the global links between terrorism and money laundering becoming abundantly clear, Canada just may find the will to intertwine its laws on the movement of money a little more tightly with the rest of the world.

With John Intini in Toronto

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Donald Coxe

Government is good?

The post-Cold War global geopolitical structure has been transformed—at least temporarily—by terrorism. Russia, China, many of the former Soviet republics and Pakistan are giving at least rhetorical support to the U.S. war effort. Israel and India are sulking, and Canada is belatedly trying to seem relevant. The economic and financial world may have undergone an even more dramatic transformation.

The end of the Cold War produced a replay of the Roaring '20s: soaring optimism, soaring stock prices, falling inflation, falling interest rates, and a growing consensus that government—particularly the military—was too big and should get out of the way of the private sector. (In the '20s, the president said: "The chief business of America is business"; in the '90s, the president said, "The era of big government is over.")

The post-First World War era ended with a crash. The post-Cold War era ended with four crashes.

The U.S. economy was already in weakened condition and stock prices were already down substantially when the first plane hit. But the rapid earlier actions of the Fed—with seven rate cuts—and President Bush and Congress, with a super-fast tax cut package, had ensured that things would start getting better soon.

The love affair with laissez-faire may be ending. Politicians don't look bad next to the excesses of business

Bin Laden Air hit the economy and stock market hard. The collapse in the travel industry and the threatened bankruptcy of the airlines took the patient from the recovery ward and into intensive care. There were other consequences. Suddenly, the American heroes were in government, not the private sector. Whether it was the firefighters, the police, the rescue workers, Mayor Giuliani, President Bush, Colin Powell, the members of the now united House and Senate, or the U.S. military, it was government that was crucial and admired.

Bush and the Congress didn't just agree on emergency help at Ground Zero: they also agreed on getting the guilty and defeating "every terrorist group of global reach." The nation is overwhelmingly behind the war effort. A year ago, we learned the U.S. was spending three per cent of its GDP on defence—equal to the level at the time of Pearl Harbor, and down from a Cold War-winning 6.3 per cent in the second Reagan term. As several conservative commentators noted, it was reasonable to predict another Pearl Harbor within a year.

The less the federal government spends, the higher stock prices go. (The reason is that as the government reduces its share of total spending, the slack is taken up by the private sector.) What is clear from all the emergency spending packages heading for congressional votes is that the crisis has emboldened every special interest, from peanuts to steel, to demand assistance. Government is getting bigger—fast.

That sudden reversion to pork barrelism at a time of record monetary expansion worries the bond market. Long-term bond yields are not following the Fed as it drives down interest rates (the Fed has lowered its basic rates from 6.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent, with the last percentage point coming since Sept. 11). Result: one of the steepest yield curves in history. (The yield curve is an imaginary line drawn between treasury bills and reaching out to 30-year bonds, showing the return for each when the coupon rate is measured against the latest market price. When the curve is steeply upward, investors are saying they are worried about inflation.)

Another reason for government's return to centre stage is a growing realization that the private sector overplayed its hand. Those bureaucrats and politicians don't look bad these days compared with many of business's biggest names. During the 1990s, government stepped back and let business create the wealth and dynamism needed to make the economy hum. That love affair with laissez-faire may be ending. It wasn't government that drove the Nasdaq index to 5,000 in the biggest financial foolishness of all time. It wasn't government that grotesquely overinvested in telecommunications, creating a glut that could take years to clear and savaging hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Free marketers told us government was the problem, not the solution. They said market disciplines rewarded those who created wealth and punished those who failed. Those indeed are basic principles of capitalism. Trouble is, numerous CEOs grew obscenely rich from sports-star-style pay packets overlain with gigantic long-term stock options. When the bubble burst, small investors and lower-level employees lost their savings and jobs, but the big guys who had become media heroes remained rich and, in too many cases, still employed. Why, some stockholders wonder, did insiders insist they deserved those riches because of high profits and high stock prices, but now say circumstances beyond their control have led to collapses in both? Isn't that the way politicians have always talked?

The interlinked postwar eras of peace, falling inflation, falling interest rates, soaring stock prices and shrinking government may have ended on Sept. 11. Who knows what will succeed them?

Donald Coxe is chairman of Harris Investment Management in Chicago and Toronto-based Jones Heward Investments.

Call him irrepressible



Priestley will sing and dance and win you over

It's hard to take **Jason Priestley** seriously when he's wearing green flannel pyjamas that make him look about 12 years old. But the crew of *Call Me Irresponsible*—a romantic comedy he's directing and starring in—are trying. On the set, Priestley, 32, offers copious amounts of praise and laughs at himself. As a veteran of *Beverly Hills 90210*, Priestley's name is not exactly synonymous with the term respectable actor, but he continues to take chances—directing the **Barenaked Ladies** documentary and working as a commentator on ABC Sports' Indy Racing League coverage. Mostly, he wins people over with his good ol' Canadian attitude. "Last summer, I taught at **Theo Fleury**'s hockey school in Russell, Man.," says the Vancouver native, who now lives in New York City. "It was great playing with the kids and then playing shinny till four in the morning."

In *Call Me Irresponsible*, which also stars **Dave Thomas** and **Tanya Allen**, Priestley sings and dances to 1940s-style musical numbers. He says he's happy doing comedy after starring in a string of thrillers—and surviving the soap opera of his own life. When asked if he had trouble turning 30, Priestley dives into his not-so-comic past: "Turning 30 was fine. My 29th year was the worst year of my life. I got married, divorced, arrested for a DUI. I couldn't wait to turn 30." The actor, who subsequently spent five days in a California state penitentiary, says he learned his lesson: "I'm always going 100 m.p.h. I've always been that way. As I get older, I just need to slow down." That's about as serious as he gets.

Pop goes the tenor

He's the biggest-selling classical recording artist ever. Millions have heard him sing operas by **Puccini** and **Verdi**. And his voice has impressed the likes of the Three Tenors—**Plácido Domingo**, **José Carreras** and **Luciano Pavarotti**. But for the time being, **Andrea Bocelli** is turning his back on the arias that made him famous and forging ahead in a most precarious territory: pop music.

Cieli Di Toscana is Bocelli's eighth CD and it's actually his third foray into pop. He has good reason for sticking with the non-operatic genre. "People across the world can relate to this album," says the 43-year-old Tuscan. "It's easy because it deals more with the every day."



Bocelli brings it down an octave

Bocelli knows the pull of mainstream. His first pop CD, *Romanza* (1996), sold over one million records in Canada—a first for a classical artist. In fact, on a per capita basis, Canada is Bocelli's biggest market, larger than his native Italy. This time around, the tenor continues to experiment. He enlisted **Bono** of U2 and French actor **Gérard Depardieu** to read a couple of solemn, dramatic poems on the new album—proving Bocelli may make pop, but he does it with an operatic sensibility.

Voice of the bad girls

Rebecca Godfrey boasts a CanLit heritage. Her father, author Dave Godfrey, published the early works of Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje, and her mother, Ellen Godfrey, is a mystery writer. When Rebecca was a child, authors, musicians, radicals and draft dodgers drifted in and out of their home in Toronto—the family later moved to Victoria. "I was able to see people following their ideas and getting them out in the world—that's inspiring," says the 33-year old. "My parents used books as a form of rebellion. When they were doing Canadian literature, no one was taking it seriously and it had a social motive behind it."



Now, Godfrey is conducting her own literary rebellion. After getting a masters in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence University in Bronxville, N.Y., she abandoned the formal style taught there to write her first novel, *The Torn Skirt*—a rowdy story of young girls in Victoria mixed up in prostitution and drugs. Godfrey is interested in the social perception of "criminal" girls. "Everyone can see a bad boy and think it's just a phase," she says. "But girls are seen as trashy, junk. They aren't cool outlaws or Huck Finn types."

As research for *The Torn Skirt*, Godfrey who lives in New York City, attended the trials of the eight Victoria teenagers accused of killing 14-year-old Reena Virk. And now she's writing a nonfiction book about that murder. "I feel I have a different perspective," she says. "They were just like the kids I grew up with, kids in small towns, not demons." For Godfrey, like her parents, writing has a social motive.



Pacifist and doomed

Two Canadian novelists of Mennonite background look to their people's past

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

Canada is a country of displaced peoples. Whether Scottish Highlanders cruelly expelled from their homeland in the 18th century, impoverished Irish farmers fleeing famine in the 1840s, or, more recently, Vietnamese boat people desperately seeking a safe harbour in the 1980s, many people came here to start anew. The Mennonites, a religious-ethnic group that has endured repeated persecution, are very much a part of this tradition. Fleeing violence and repression in the 1870s and again in the 1920s, thousands of Russian Mennonites found sanctuary in rural Canada, especially on the prairies, where they eventually prospered, like seeds landing on fertile soil.

Until recently, the Mennonite story—often bloody, tragic and steeped in the religious and political antagonisms of the past five centuries—has gone largely untold. But that is rapidly changing. This fall, two distinguished Canadian novelists, one a devout Mennonite and the other a disaffected daughter of the faith, have produced books that illuminate the Mennonite experience. In some ways, the novels are as distinct as their authors. In **Sweeter than All the World** (Knopf Canada, $35.95), Edmonton's Rudy Wiebe combines a sweeping saga of Mennonite life dating back to the 16th century with the compelling tale of a contemporary Mennonite man who has lost his moral compass—and is quickly losing his family. In **The Russlander** (McClelland & Stewart, $34.99), recently shortlisted for the coveted Gillet literary prize, Regina-based writer Sandra Birdsell focuses on a single character caught up in a particularly horrific moment in time: the Russian Revolution and its bitter aftermath, when pacifist Mennonites became an easy target for roving armies of bandits, murderers and rapists.

In the wake of Sept. 11, both books resonate in unexpected ways. Each contains heartrending depictions of what happens when innocent civilians are caught in the crosshairs of armed conflict. And both authors document in chilling, unsentimental prose man's unspeakable capacity for cruelty towards his fellow man—more often than not, perpetrated in the name of God. These may be historical novels, but in an age when terrorists kill thousands on the pretence of a holy war and innocent civilians are caught up in retaliatory strikes, both books seem as relevant as today's headlines.



Wiebe (front left, with jacket and tie) and family at age 8, and now (opposite) ruminates on human cruelty

The yellowed poplar leaves are rapidly falling on the northern prairie near Strawberry Creek, 80 km southwest of Edmonton. This area, where Rudy Wiebe and his wife, Tena, own a half-section of land, is almost identical to the northern Saskatchewan bush country where the novelist spent the first 12 years of his life. But what the Wiebes have erected here is a far cry from the compact log house plastered with mud where Rudy was born in 1934, the youngest of seven children in a Mennonite family that had fled Russia four years earlier. A spacious 11-bedroom lodge built of British Columbia Douglas fir overlooks a meandering creek where beavers busily construct less stately domiciles. For much of the year, community, church and business groups rent the property for wilderness retreats. The rest of the time it's available for family get-togethers (the Wiebes have two grown children, two grandchildren and a large extended family) and as a quiet place for Rudy to write. It was here, in a second-floor bedroom with a grand view of the unspoiled bush, that Wiebe wrote much of *Sweeter than All the World*, his ninth novel.

In his latest book, 67-year-old Wiebe draws not only on his own family's backstory, but from a deep well of Mennonite history. With the audacious confidence of a mature writer (Wiebe is a two-time recipient of the Governor General's Award, for 1973's *The Temptations of Big Bear* and 1994's *A Discovery Of Strangers*), he breathes life into a series of Mennonite characters, who tell their stories from beyond the grave, in the first person and in present tense. Among the novel's voices are: the children of early Mennonite martyrs, who watch as their parents are tortured and burned at the stake in the 16th century for what the Roman Catholic Church considers heretical views; an 18th-century Mennonite artist forbidden to paint portraits, because his church considers them "graven images" that violate the Second Commandment; and a middle-aged woman who tries, but fails, to shield a loved one from rape and murder at the hands of Russian soldiers during the Second World War.

Book-ending the tale are two key characters, both named Adam Wiebe (the surname is extremely common among Mennonites), who exist four centuries apart. The first is a historical figure, a 17th-century engineer in Danzig, Poland, where many Mennonites fled at that time to escape the Inquisition. This Adam is credited with inventing the world's first cable-car system. The second Adam Wiebe is a fictional creation—born in northern Alberta in the 1930s to Russian parents—who becomes an affluent physician. The contemporary Adam indulges in a restless, adulterous lifestyle until he is brought up short by every parent's nightmare: the sudden disappearance, and possible death, of his only daughter.



Todd Korol for Maclean's

The structure of the novel allows Wiebe to deal with the Mennonite story on several levels. Perhaps most impressive is his ability to fictionally trace nearly five centuries of history without being the least didactic or dull. The Mennonites take their name from Menno Simons (1496-1561), a Roman Catholic priest who broke away from the church as part of the Anabaptist movement. The Anabaptists sought to live out the Christian faith in the way they believed Jesus intended. Among other things, early Mennonites advocated adult, rather than infant, baptism, pacifism in the face of violence, and a withdrawal from worldly practices and institutions, including politics and government.

The first Mennonites were viewed as dangerous radicals by Catholics and Protestants alike, and endured persecution from all sides. Wiebe brilliantly evokes this grim era when he has a daughter recall the torture and execution of her mother at the behest of Roman Catholic authorities. A blacksmith appears at her mother's cell and orders the woman to stick out her tongue. "The smith," says the narrator, "pushed the curled iron onto her tongue until the flanges spread her lips as wide and hard as possible. He pulled it off, hammered it a little tighter, then forced it on again. He was silent, efficient, well accustomed to intimate work on a shuddering woman's face. He screwed the vise down to the point of steady blood, and finally, to make certain it would never slip, with tongs he took from out of his fire a white-hot iron. He laid that iron on the tip of my mother's tongue."

The Mennonites' refusal to take up arms repeatedly put them at odds with civil authorities, often forcing them to uproot themselves. Over the centuries, they progressively moved from their original homelands in the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland to various points in Europe and, ultimately, to North America and beyond. (There are currently about 200,000 Mennonites in Canada, most of them living in the western provinces.) Wiebe's own father, Abram, an impover-

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Birdsell's maternal grandparents (shown at their wedding in 1903) suffered greatly

ished farmer from south-central Russia, worked in the national forestry service as a conscientious objector during the First World War. The family (five of Wiebe's six siblings were born in Russia) nearly starved to death under Stalin's regime in the 1920s before narrowly escaping to Germany, and then to Canada, in 1930. They were the lucky ones: some of Wiebe's relatives continued to face starvation or, worse yet, imprisonment and painful death in Stalin's gulags.



In northern Saskatchewan, the Wiebes became part of a rugged Mennonite homesteading community. Despite being born into the Depression, Rudy recalls it as an oddly privileged childhood of playing in the bush while his parents and older siblings toiled the land. But at an early age, he learned of past sufferings as local families often gathered to tell stories about the Old Country and why they left it. He realized later, though, that he had been spared some of the gruesome details. "When people have suffered great personal trauma, they often don't talk about it," Wiebe said in a recent interview at his Strawberry Creek lodge. "I mean, what do you do with the horrible things that happened to you? The last thing you want to do is inflict them on your own children."

Unlike his Russian-born siblings, who never made it past Grade 9, Wiebe went on to earn several university degrees and became a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Alberta (he retired in 1992). But while he has lived, and thrived, in the secular world, Wiebe remains a staunch Mennonite and a committed pacifist. When asked to ponder why God has allowed the Mennonites to suffer so much, Wiebe pauses a moment, then responds. "That's a tough one," he says. "You are almost faced with Sept. 11. Because there are horrors wrought in the name of God that most of us consider unthinkable. And they are often brought about by those who are most fanatical about what they understand God to be." Faithful Mennonites, he adds, are just as determined that God wants mankind to eschew violence. "There's a certain genius in that. If you don't fight, you in a sense short-circuit revenge. And if you short-circuit



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Honour Roll 2001

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ROGERS MEDIA

revenge, you help to destroy hatred. And hatred drives most of the world's politics and history."

Curled up in an easy chair in her Regina home, Sandra Birdsell is a surprisingly intense presence, a strong voice wrapped in a petite frame. As she describes the genesis of her new novel, *The Russländer*, it becomes clear that, like Wiebe, she was inspired by her own heritage. But there the similarities end. Though by birth half-Mennonite (on her mother's side; her father was French Métis and Catholic), Birdsell had a childhood aversion to most of her Mennonite relatives, finding them too judgmental and dour. It probably didn't help that her mother beat her as a teenager for deciding to no longer attend church.

Beat her? "Yes," says Birdsell matter-of-factly, "my mother beat us, quite regularly. And the hard part was being sent out in the yard to find a stick for her to do it with. If you didn't find a good strong one, someone else got it for you."

In fact, the 59-year-old author actively resisted writing about Mennonites for many years. She finally did so, she says, to try to better understand her mother, who emigrated with her family from Russia in 1923 at the age of 12, settling in Morris, Man., 60 km south of Winnipeg. She also wanted to understand the great-aunts who had been beautiful young women in Russia, but seemed so bleak and morose in Canada, and her great-grandmother who "could not go to sleep at night until she poked under her bed with a broom."

As a child, Birdsell was told little about what her family suffered during the Russian Revolution. "My mother had a stock answer," she recalls with a smile. "She would say, 'Russia was very beautiful, but it was an evil place.'" Later she learned that her grandfather was falsely accused of criticizing the Communists in 1921. "He ended up in prison with about 10 other men," says Birdsell. "Every morning, someone would be taken out and shot after a fake tribunal." Her grandfather was eventually freed, but the family, along with thousands of other Mennonites, continued to suffer. Typhoid, malnutrition and starvation all took a grim toll, while bands of soldiers and anarchists murdered and raped. "Some things are not talked about," says Birdsell quietly. "Estimates are that the rape of women in some villages was almost 50 per cent. But you cannot find a person who will say they were raped. There's a great reluctance to discuss it because, I think, some people felt guilty that they had somehow caused it. And women weren't of marriageable state if they had been raped."

Birdsell learned some of this through extensive reading and poring over Mennonite archives, but also by visiting the areas of what is now Ukraine where her family once lived. All became grist for *The Russländer*, which tells the story of Katya Vogt, a teenager during the Russian Revolution who sees her ordered world descend into chaos. In the book's climax, Katya's parents and several other members of her family are slain by bandits. Birdsell is unsparing as she describes the young girl witnessing one of the brutal deaths: "It was then that Kolya swung the shovel, silencing Abram's sputtering with a blow to the side of his head." Next, Katya hears "a high-pitched sound that came from the back of a throat, becoming a scream as the first sabre slashed through Abram's nightshirt, parting the flesh of his shoulder. Katya saw how white and shiny was his bone."

Birdsell, the divorced mother of three grown children, says that researching and writing the novel has not made her feel any more like a Mennonite. She describes herself as "a person of faith," but incapable of belonging to a church. But she has come to appreciate the contributions recent generations of Mennonites have made to medicine, science and the arts, as well as the many relief missions the Mennonite church runs to the world's trouble spots.

Like Wiebe, Birdsell finds herself thinking a lot these days about one such point of conflict, and the curious ways that fiction sometimes mirrors reality. For her, it has to do with the utter fragility of human life. She notes how the Russian Revolution abruptly, and violently, ended the productive and prosperous lives many Mennonites had enjoyed at the time. "And that's how I feel about those people who innocently went to work at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11," she says. "Their stories have ended in the middle of the telling. And there's just a great big missing hole in the earth because they are gone." m

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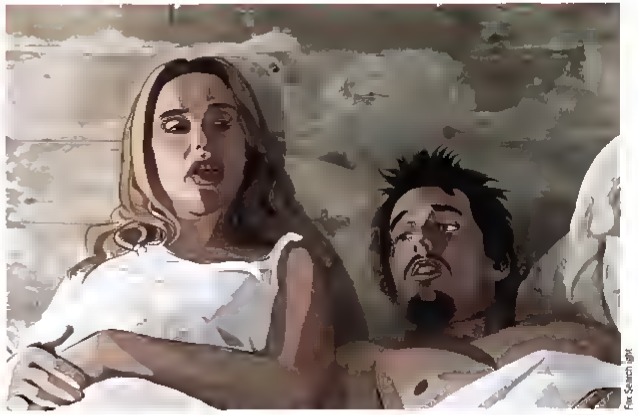
Movies about philosophy, robbery and matrimony offer a welcome escape

Over the past month, there hasn't been space in the magazine to review movies, for obvious reasons. Looking back, it seems we haven't missed much. *Glitter*, *Rock Star* and *Zoolander* all offer the breathless revelation that show business is a vain and hollow place. In *Don't Say a Word*, Michael Douglas is a psychiatric sleuth who rescues three helpless females—wife, daughter and psycho babe—from an evil foreigner. And in *Hearts in Atlantis*, Anthony Hopkins uses his casual intelligence to deflect a dung-storm of sentimental hocus-pocus. Among Hollywood's recent diversions, only *Joy Ride* offers a real kick, though its monster-trucker scenario ends up on a collision course with shlock horror.

But here are three new movies that can be recommended: *Waking Life*, a feat of indie innovation; *Bandits*, a luxurious Hollywood road movie; and *Last Wedding*, a slice of trenchant wit from Vancouver.

Waking Life It's been said that movies are like waking dreams, and that the flicker of their images resembles the rapid-eye movement of the dreamer. This animated feature from American writer-director Richard Linklater (*Slacker*, *Dazed and Confused*) is not *like* a dream, it *is* a dream—or rather a series of waking dreams that slip into one another like those Russian dolls. It also takes computer animation in a new direction.

Most of Hollywood is on a mission to create computer graphics that look convincingly lifelike, whether as special effects or in computer-animated fantasies like *Final Fantasy*. But Linklater has done the opposite: he shot an entire movie with actors on video, edited the footage, then used "rotoscoping" software to transform it into digital animation. Art director Bob Sabiston, who created the software, worked with some 30 animators, who "painted" over the footage in an array of styles.



Delpy and Hawke reprise their *Before Sunrise* roles in an imaginative tour de force

Waking Life unfolds as a psychedelic seminar of images and ideas—an ontological inquiry into the cosmic riddle. The story takes place entirely in the mind, and it's like Philosophy 101 on fast-forward, featuring every idea that every young man has ever hurled into the void. But Linklater's jellyfish narrative, untethered to time or space, shimmers with bright discourse and trippy visuals—imagine *My Dinner with André* aboard *Yellow Submarine*. One minute you're pondering quantum physics and free will, the next you're enchanted by snaky tendrils in a woman's hair.

The 55 characters who pop in and out of this docu-dream include actors from Linklater's previous films, as well as friends, family, filmmakers—even a couple of professors from his alma mater, the University of Texas. Director Steven Soderbergh offers a crafty cameo. Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy reprise their roles in Linklater's *Before Sunrise*. And Wiley Wiggins (*Dazed and Confused*) stars as the callow youth who does the dreaming.



Linklater dreams on

Interviewed at last month's Toronto International Film Festival, Linklater explained that the script was inspired by a "lucid" dream from his own youth. "It was a big experience in my life," he told me. "That series of false awakenings seemed to go on for days, like a long, high-speed chase." The 41-year-old director says he never considered making the movie without animation. "We've been

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Willis, Blanchett, Thornton—two Clydes and a Bonnie

Ever since the advent of talkies, Linklater notes, "people have been bitching that cinema took a wrong turn—that it went in a theatrical direction when it had so many other possibilities." And *Waking Life* explores the existential issue of cinema itself. At one point, actor-director Caveh Zahedi holds forth on French Catholic film theorist André Bazin, who believed that, by recording reality, the camera could offer a glimpse of God—a Holy Moment. Zahedi and his listener then lock eyes to create a Holy Moment with us, the audience, one that sends their pupils dilating in animated waves. It may not be God, but it's groovy.

Bandits While this cool confection from director Barry Levinson (*Diner*, *Rain Man*) doesn't pretend to reinvent cinema, it does go beyond Hollywood's usual call of duty. *Bandits* is a bank-robber comedy that plays as a pastiche of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *Bonnie and Clyde*, with a twist of *Jules et Jim*. Scripted by Harley Peyton (*Twin Peaks*), it lacks the emotional depth of those classics—the drama feels counterfeit—but it's thoroughly entertaining.

Joe (Bruce Willis) and Terry (Billy Bob Thornton) are seasoned bank robbers who become known as the "Sleepover Bandits", their shtick is to gently take the bank manager hostage in his home, then have him open the branch early the next morning for them to rob. A blithely insouciant Cate Blanchett portrays Kate, a runaway housewife who joins the pair—and falls for both of them—as they plunder their way from Oregon to California. Willis, as the tough guy, plays straight man to Thornton, who's the sensitive geek, a hypochondriac twitching with phobias. Levinson gives him ample licence to steal the picture. And there's a giddy edge of improv to his performance—as when he wakes from a dream, bolt upright, shouting "and beavers and ducks!"

This, meanwhile, is one well-upholstered road movie. From the first tease of Bob Dylan's *Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum* over the titles, *Bandits* announces itself as a sound track on wheels. In a candy assortment of stolen cars, we cruise through a panorama of gunmetal Oregon skies, vintage motels, fireworks on the beach. The pace is perversely relaxed, and sags near the end; there are too many robberies. But it's as if Levinson is deliberately bending the rules of the commercial road movie—trying to find room for reflection amid formula.

Last Wedding This is another boys-will-be-boys comedy, but the boys in question are stuck at home, ruining relationships instead of robbing banks, and their foibles appear in a less forgiving light. Written and directed by Vancouver's Bruce Sweeney (*Dirty*), *Last Wedding* is an acerbically funny ensemble piece about a trio of disintegrating couples. In the foreground is Noah (Benjamin Ratner), who is nervously headed to the altar with Zipporah (Frida Betrani) after just six weeks of dating. Before long, it occurs to him that he's married an idiot, and his parents are no consolation. "Your mother and I, we've been married 35 years," says his father, "and she's not even my type."

But most of the humour is at the expense of the men. Peter (Tom Scholte), a CanLit professor, can't stop himself from tumbling into a disastrous affair with a student—who services him while he lectures her on Alice Munro's "alcoholic spinster virgins." And Shane (Vincent Gale), an embittered architect, lets professional jealousy erode his marriage as his wife (Molly Parker) embarks on her own career in architecture. *Last Wedding* clicks along with enough urbane wit that, for a while, it looks like it could be the breakout comedy Canadians have been waiting for. But in the second half, Sweeney refuses to bow to formula, and leaves the relationships raggedly unresolved—a bold move from a filmmaker who's not about to jump into a commercial marriage of convenience. m



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David Howe

While a student, McKenna spent eight summers in the fields of Tillsonburg, Ont.

Lighting up Tobacco Road

From backbreaking labour to triumphant drama

Malachy McKenna, a handsome, well-built Irish actor and playwright, is having dinner at a sidewalk cafe in Toronto, a long way from his home in Tipperary, Ireland—and several worlds away from the Ontario tobacco fields where he spent his summers in the early 1990s. But his face lights up when he talks about the dirty job of harvesting tobacco. After a day's work—riding a low-lying harvester pulled by a tractor and stripping the fleshy, tar-laden leaves from the bottom of the plants up—his back was usually sore, his hands were coated in a black resin and he was physically spent. But he admired the hardworking, down-to-earth farmers, and fondly recalls trips to town on pay day. "We'd all pile into the back of a pickup like the Beverly Hillbillies to do laundry and buy groceries," says McKenna, now 34. "Afterward, we'd each buy a case of beer and head back to the bunkhouse."

The town, of course, was Tillsonburg, population 14,160, a centre of southwestern Ontario's tobacco country and a place made famous by the Stompin' Tom Connors tune ("Tillsonburg, my back still aches when I hear that word"). Stompin' Tom drew on personal experience when writing his song about tobacco picking, and McKenna also found inspiration in the harvest. He used his recollections of bunkhouse camaraderie to write a play called *Tillsonburg*, which attracted sellout crowds to Dublin's Focus Theatre during a three-month run last fall. This week, Toronto's Canadian Stage Company mounts the first production on this continent, with McKenna playing the lead role of Donal (Digger) Hogan, who is trying to patch up his friendship with a fellow Irish student.

In the spring of 1989, while he was studying English and history at University College in Galway on the west coast of Ireland, McKenna saw an advertisement for summer jobs picking tobacco in Ontario. He decided he'd give it a try, and promptly tore down all the notices posted on campus to ensure there would be a spot for him. The work was extraordinarily hard, but he enjoyed it so much that he returned for seven more summers. "I always knew the bunkhouse would be a great setting for a play," McKenna recalls. "I said to myself after my first or second year, 'I'm going to write a play about this.'"

But nearly nine years elapsed before McKenna put pen to paper. He took a postgraduate degree in journalism and communications, worked briefly in public relations and studied acting at The Focus Theatre. One night in the fall of 1999, after watching a not-so-good production at the theatre, he told himself he could write a better play. Two months later, the first draft of *Tillsonburg* was finished. The play, featuring McKenna as Digger Hogan, premiered last October at the Focus and earned rave reviews. It was an exhilarating experience, McKenna says, except for one small thing—he had to pass up a part in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*, which was being shot simultaneously in Rome. "I had auditioned the previous spring, but never heard back," he says. "If anyone had told me I was going to turn down Martin Scorsese I would have said they were nuts."

But the play has provided a huge boost for McKenna's career. In June, he won the Stewart Parker Trust New Playwright Bursary, an important Irish literary prize. He's had discussions with Irish director John Lynch about turning the work into a movie. Meanwhile, the play has attracted considerable attention in tobacco country. McKenna's former employer, Marius Vanbesien, and his wife, Maryanne, plan to attend opening night. Tillsonburg mayor Irv Horton says the theatre is setting aside tickets for local residents on the last weekend in October, and as many as 500 people are expected to attend. "There's hardly a family in this area that hasn't been involved in the tobacco industry," says Horton. "My wife and I both picked tobacco 50 years ago when we were teenagers, and the harvest helped put my kids through university."

But the industry is experiencing big changes. Many farmers have turned to other crops because high tobacco taxes and the anti-smoking movement have put a dent in consumption. Those who have stuck with tobacco are rapidly switching to mechanical harvesters. "I went back down to the farm recently and saw one of these new machines," says McKenna. "Here's this big thing that can pick three times as much in a day as a crew of six, and we broke our backs doing it." Manual picking may disappear, but McKenna's play—like Stompin' Tom's song—will continue to remind people of the bad old days.

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Entertainment Notes

From slavery to freedom

In 1889, Owen Sound, Ont., merchant John Frost published *Broken Shackles*, the recollections of one of his town's most extraordinary residents. Old Man Henson, as he was known, was about 90 years old at the time and had been born into slavery in Maryland. His vivid memoir, now reprinted by Natural Heritage Books, is the story of a man of courage and unshakable perseverance. And one that covers a huge swath of black history in the New World. (He still remembered the tales his mother had told him about *her* mother's capture by slavers in Africa.) Henson describes his life as a slave, his escape to Pennsylvania, his flight to Toronto after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 left him at risk even in a free state, and the rigours of pioneer life in Upper Canada.



Best-Sellers

	POSITION LAST WEEK
Fiction	
1. THE CORRECTIONS, Jonathan Franzen (5)	1
2. THE ASH GARDEN Dennis Bock (7)	2
3. HATESHIP FRIENDSHIP COURTSHIP LOVESHIP MARRIAGE, Alice Munro (2)	3
4. BLACK HOUSE, Stephen King and Peter Straub (3)	4
5 SPADEWORK, Timothy Findley (5)	6
6. RIVER THIEVES, Michael Crummey (3)	8
7 THE GRYPHON, Nick Bantock (7)	5
8. THE STONE CARVERS, Jane Urquhart (27)	7
9 ATONEMENT Ian McEwan (1)	
10 THE RUSSLANDER, Sandra Birdsall (1)	
Nonfiction	
1. THE MAP THAT CHANGED THE WORLD, Simon Winchester (5)	1
2 MISCONCEPTIONS, Naomi Wolf (2)	5
3 GERMS: THE ULTIMATE WEAPON, Judith Miller Stephen Engelberg William Broad (1)	
4. AS NEAR TO HEAVEN BY SEA, Kevin Major (2)	3
5 MARCHING AS TO WAR, Pierre Berton (5)	1
6. ANATOMY OF A ROSE, Sharman Apt Russell (7)	4
7 THE TRIAL OF HENRY KISSINGER, Christopher Hitchens (4)	10
8. FAST FOOD NATION, Eric Schlosser (18)	7
9. GETTING STARTED, William Weintraub (3)	8
10. JACK: STRAIGHT FROM THE GUT, Jack Welch (2)	9

() Weeks on list
Compiled by Brian Bethune

YESTERDAY
How many kids?

TODAY
How many scoops?

TOMORROW
How many university degrees?

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Allan Fotheringham

A crisis in leadership



Doug Fisher, at 82, is the undisputed dean of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, not only the oldest but the wisest in that gang that now surpasses 400 bodies. He has had the unparalleled experience—common in Britain but almost unknown here—of being on both sides of the undeclared war between politicians and scribblers.

As an unknown war veteran who fought Hitler in a tank (one companion in those enclosed quarters being Vancouver millionaire Chunky Woodward), he as the CCF candidate caused a national sensation by upsetting in his Thunder Bay riding the mighty and arrogant C. D. Howe, the one-man dynamo who ran the Liberal cabinet in Ottawa and destroyed it with his oh-so-superior performance in the famous pipeline debate that brought John Diefenbaker to power.

Fisher, after politics, went into journalism, a then-left-winger who has written forever a column from Ottawa, mostly in the *Toronto Sun*, a rather puzzling tabloid that—appealing to blue-collar workers on the way to work since it doesn't have weekday home delivery—is rabidly right wing in its editorial rantings. That's OK, every paper has to have at least one columnist who gets it right.

The tank veteran, with his ponderous bulk and his hip problem, knows how to get the truth: you talk to people and watch people, and judge their value. He watches Question Period every day. He reads Hansard every day. Even more valuable, he still shows up regularly at the House of Commons cafeteria—not the flouncy parliamentary dining room at lunch—where he shmoozes with the ordinary grunts who toil in the trenches of a government that has evolved—thanks to Trudeau, aided by Mulroney, enhanced by Chrétien—into a regime more insular than any other in our history.

The point in all of this is that Fisher, in a cool, calm manner—since he knows the dolts, the fools, the bright guys—has been writing consistently over the last few years of the J. Chrétien cabinet that has existed since 1993, with one simple conclusion. It is that there is more talent in the Liberal backbench that could be promoted than there is in the Grit front bench, composed of compliant loyalists who do not dare challenge the man who hates, most of all, change.

The evidence is all before us, in these embarrassing four weeks since the New York disaster, as the "best and the brightest" of the Chrétien front bench have stumbled forward into the TV spotlight. The terminal lightweights, Defence Minister Art Eggleton and Transport Minister David Collenette, in their important positions only because they are the cabinet "strongmen" from Toronto—God save the mark—because Ontario supplies one-third of the Liberal majority in the House of Commoners.

Anne McLellan, clearly out of her depth at Justice, in there only because she is from Alberta, a Grit wasteland. And the truly loopy solicitor general, Lawrence MacAulay, only in the cabinet, as any dope knows, because he's from Prince Edward Island. It's shock-making, viewing on TV these unsure, ill-confident ministers explaining policies they do not understand, or cannot explain. A voter can only grow red-faced in shame, watching the performance—in comparison as to what can be seen below the undefended border.

J. Chrétien, as he has often boasted, has succeeded because people always underestimate him. This is true. This time, the mantra has failed. He did not drop in to Manhattan to pay his respects to the innocent 5,100 victims of fanatics on his way home from a visit with George Bush in Washington because he had to make it to a Liberal fund-raising dinner in Toronto. Alas, a Grit fund-raising dinner in St. John's intervened. Parliament was not recalled. A full cabinet was not even reconvened right after the attack.

What has happened, one suggests, is that the Canadian electorate (despite the high polling approval the unwashed always rally behind the leader at times of war) really has divined in this period of crisis that the PM is "Yesterday's Man"—as we called him before he came into power in 1993. The innocent victim of the last month, as it turns out, is Paul Martin who through no fault of his own (his portfolio never given much prominence as opposed to Defence and Transport—and those other weaklings) has disappeared behind the drapes.

The result, it is suspected, is that the Canadian public will not (in fairness) compare J. Chrétien's inarticulate embarrassment to the near-Churchillian strivings of Tony Blair, and George Bush mastering the near-eloquence of his speechwriters. It is that they would prefer, as a leader on the world stage, a real change—the new voice of a surprising new and strong face, John Manley, or perhaps, Frank McKenna.

GOALS:

I want my best friend to come back to school. I'm running out of cootie-protector.

-Jake



ASSISTS: Absent. The longer a friend is away, the tougher that word is. That's why Esso supports The Childhood Cancer Foundation-Candlelighters Canada, assisting families and friends dealing with the effects of childhood cancer. Their Back to School kit prepares classmates and teachers for a recovering student's return. Making the transition back to class for children with cancer more comfortable. It's a program solely dedicated to making kids feel better. Which is something we can all feel better about.

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